

623 Lombard Street: A House with History



**By Joaquin Moreland-Sender
Historical Society of Pennsylvania**

Cover photo: 623 Lombard Street, 2017 (photo by Ken Frank)

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Photo on title page: 600 block of Lombard Street, north side, 1959 (Source: City of Philadelphia, Department of Records)

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Foreword

In 1994, my friend Valerie happened upon an auction sale for a group of houses on the 600 block of Lombard Street in Philadelphia. The story is hers to tell, but the result was that she won the bid for one of the smaller houses. She already lived in the city in a neighborhood to the north. She set up the house at 623 Lombard as a rental.

One of her leasers, a young doctor, now moved to North Carolina, told Valerie that he had learned that the house was once owned by a former slave. This got us intrigued. How did he know? What more might we learn?

I tracked him down and had a brief email exchange with him. He proved friendly and helpful. Although he could not reconstruct his search, he could tell us what caught his attention. He had dug around in the backyard and found tantalizing artifacts—“some old bits of flatware, tons of oyster shells, animal bones, and two lead toy soldiers. The soldiers were in Civil War style dress. I do metal casting (as another hobby), and I could tell that they were sand-cast which means they were made before the 1890s. Not to mention, they were a children’s toy made of lead! Sadly, those two soldiers may have been lost in the move down.”

He sent me a copy of a document with transcribed census information from 1870 that listed several residents of the house described as Chinese, but having typically English-sounding names like James and William Smith. He also copied for us a transcript of a fire insurance policy which documents an “original” inspection of the house performed in 1838 and another in 1911 which confirmed that the building as described in 1838 had not been changed. (See Appendix Item Number 1 for the original insurance document.)

As for his tantalizing report that a former slave had once owned the house, he could recapture no proof. This is the choice tidbit that determined us to dig deeper. In 2017, my husband Ken and I, with Valerie’s backing, decided to move the investigation forward. We visited the Historical Society of Pennsylvania on Locust Street. There we learned that we could obtain professional help in research of this type. Joaquin Moreland-Sender, Researcher on staff at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, accepted our commission. He also has personal knowledge of the neighborhood the house sits in. (He played sports for years in the recreational park right across the street in Starr Garden.) He persuaded us that it would be exciting to trace the story of the house itself, but that it would also be rewarding to gather stories of its environs.

While Joaquin launched the project and wrote the body of the essay here, he has graciously allowed us to make additions and some alterations to the text and images. Hold me responsible for any errors or quirks. He also contributed several photographs of his own.

The project doesn’t end here. We hope that everyone who has things to contribute to the story will let us know so we can add that lore to this.

I have enjoyed watching the rich history of this house unfold, highlighting Philadelphia as a “City of Homes.”

Susan E. Frank

623 Lombard Street – A House with History

Part I: A Runaway Slave's First Home



Figure 1. Red door marking 623 Lombard Street, 2017 (Photo by Ken Frank)

The charming and modest home that sits at 623 Lombard Street in the City of Philadelphia helps us connect to people, places and events that are central to who we are as Philadelphians and as Americans. The following essay is a brief overview of some of the history concerning both the property and the neighborhood, moving from the founding of the City of Brotherly Love, to the late 20th Century.

The Historical Background of Lombard Street in the City of Philadelphia

In 1682, the same year that William Penn founded Philadelphia, Thomas Holme arrived in the colony to take on the role of surveyor. During the following year, Holme produced the first map of what would become the City of Philadelphia – its classic grid pattern with five squares easily recognizable in the city to this day. The plan called for a city to run from the Delaware River to the Schuylkill River, with boundaries at what is now Vine Street to the north, and South Street (formerly called Cedar Street) to the south.

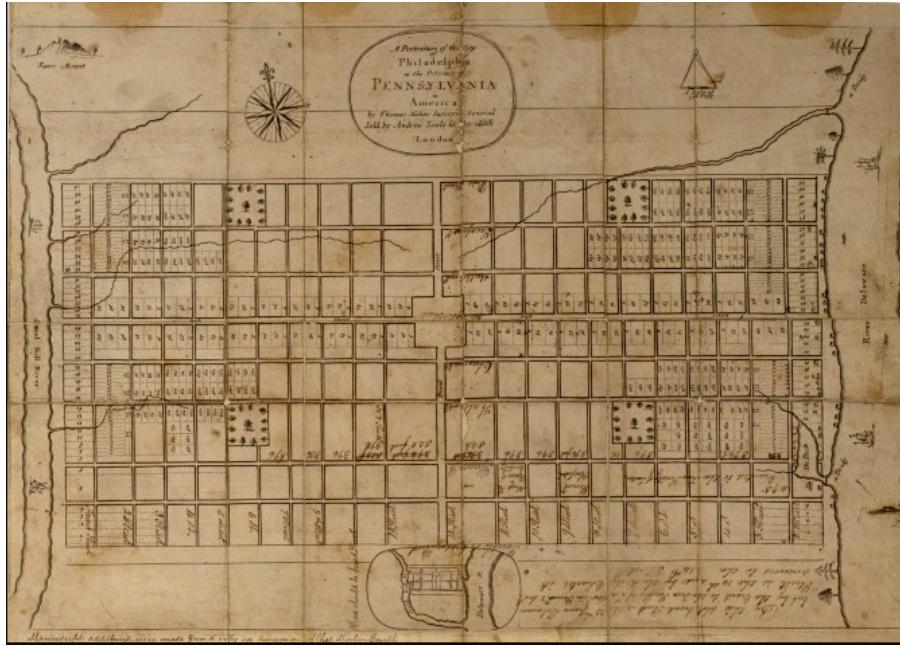


Figure 2. Thomas Holme's plan of Philadelphia for William Penn, 1683 The plan does not designate a Lombard Street. (Source: Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

Until the consolidation of 1854, the plan laid out by Holme was the City of Philadelphia, with the neighboring areas within the County of Philadelphia functioning as independent townships and boroughs. Because the port and main area of business were located along the Delaware River, the east side of the city expanded rapidly, spilling out of the plan's borders north and south along the waterfront. It would take more than a century for the original city's western area to be filled with a growing urban population.

In the opening essay of *Philadelphia: A 300 year History*, edited by Russell F. Weigley, the authors note that the streets of the city were “first called by the names of prominent settlers.” However, in 1684 William Penn renamed the streets running east to west after trees (Chestnut, Walnut, Pine...), while those running north to south were given numbers (Front, 2nd, 3rd...).

We've seen that Lombard Street did not appear in Holme's original plan. Roberta Alotta's *Mermaids, Monasteries, Cherokees and Custer: The Stories Behind Philadelphia Street Names*, indicates that Lombard began as an alley in 1740, running from Front to 2nd Street, and was “the site of Philadelphia’s first financial district.” The name harkened back to London’s financial street, and was “originally derived from the Italian moneylenders of Genoa and Florence – the Lombards.” The entry for Lombard also notes that “the street was finally opened by affidavit in 1883 from the Delaware to the Schuylkill River.” [An affidavit in this case would be a sworn document presented to the Department of Streets confirming that the street has been in use as a public road for at least twenty-one years.]

The affidavit aside, as early as 1781 a patent from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania designated “Nine Public City Lots... marked and distinguished in the general plan of the Public City Lots No. 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, and 126.” These lot numbers refer to the north side of Lombard Street running between 6th and 7th Streets. They can be seen in Book 1 of *Plan With the Measures of All the Squares, Streets, Lanes and Alleys Between Cedar and Pine Streets and From Delaware to Schuylkill*, a land survey digitized by the Free Library of Philadelphia. On page 6 of this plan, drawn up in 1786, the lot numbers are clearly visible. It is here that we appear to have the earliest reference to what would eventually become 623 Lombard Street—namely, Lot #121.

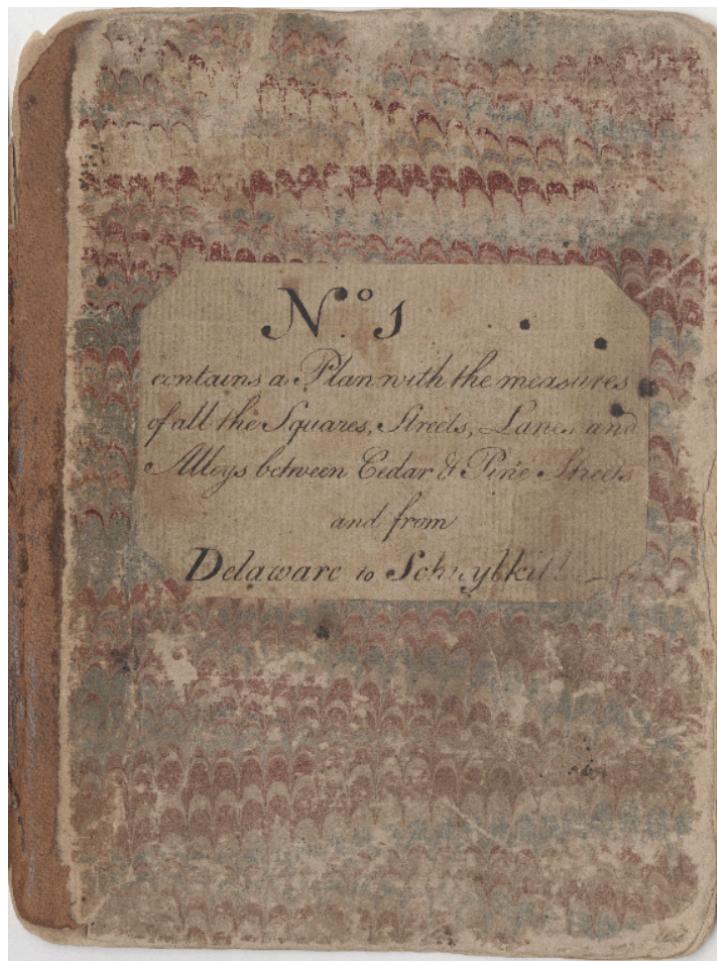


Figure 3. Cover of *Plan With the Measures of All the Squares, Streets, Lanes and Alleys Between Cedar & Pine Streets and From Delaware to Schuylkill*, produced in 1786 and containing survey plans by Josiah Matlack and James Pearson, City Surveyors (See Figure 4). (Source: Free Library of Philadelphia)

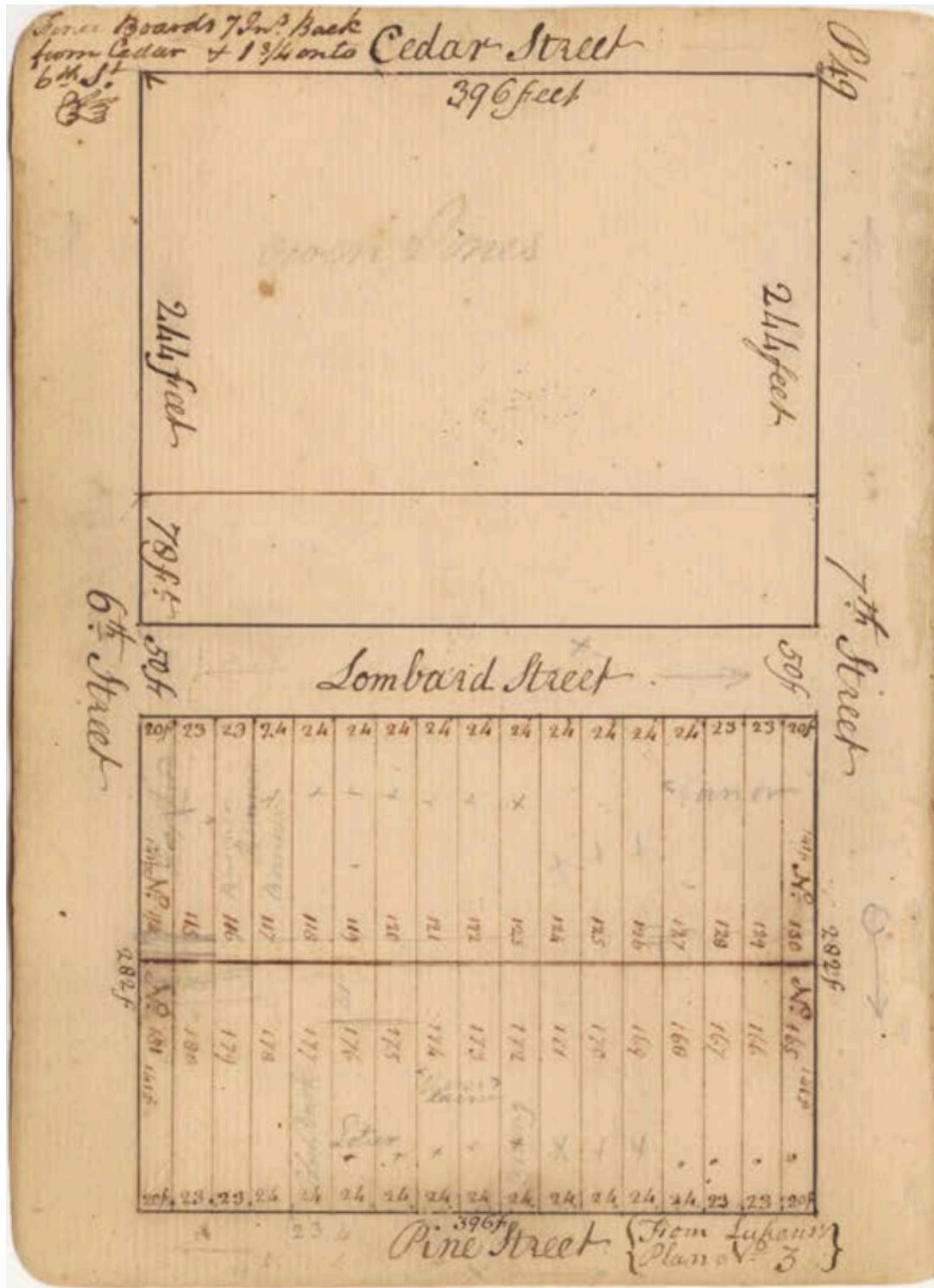


Figure 4. Survey plan of 600 block of Lombard Street, showing lot number 121, drawn by Josiah Matlack and James Pearson, City Surveyors, in 1786, in *Measures of all the Squares, Streets, Lanes and Alleys Between Cedar & Pine Streets and From Delaware to Schuylkill* page 6. Lot number 121 will become 623 Lombard Street. (Source: Free Library of Philadelphia)

The House

A patent [deed] for the nine lots from 1781 was granted to White Matlack (probably brother of Josiah Matlack, the city surveyor noted in Figure 4). We know this thanks to a “Brief of the Title” that appears at the end of the indenture between the Bank of Pennsylvania and Henry Pratt, Philadelphia City Archives, recorded in 1802.

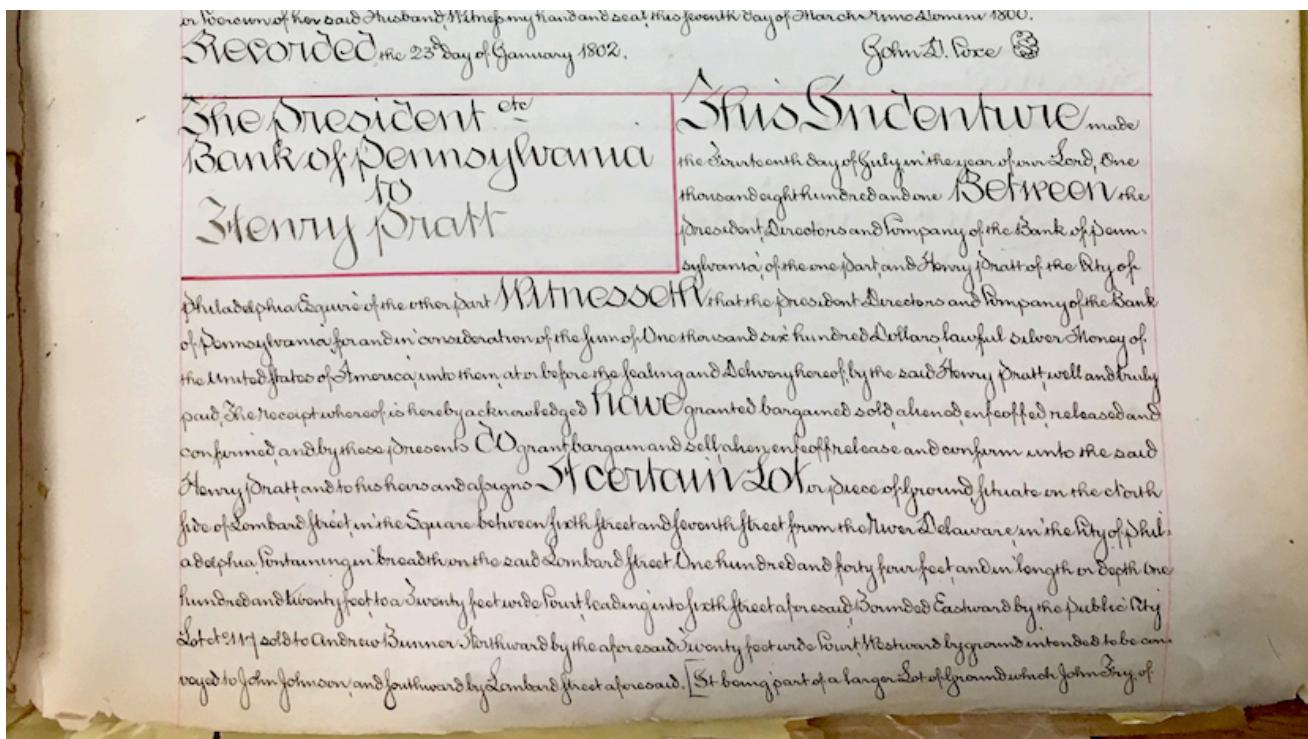


Figure 5. Indenture to Henry Pratt from the Bank of Pennsylvania for lots on the north 600 block of Lombard Street. See Appendix Item Number 2 for the complete document.
(Source: Deed Book EF No. 10, p. 585, Philadelphia City Archives)

The indenture, or deed, noted that the Bank of Pennsylvania, “in consideration of the sum of One thousand six hundred Dollars lawful silver Money of the United States of America,” sold to Henry Pratt “A certain Lot or piece of Ground situate on the North side of Lombard Street in the Square between Sixth Street and Seventh Street from the river Delaware in the City of Philadelphia...) Thus, Henry Pratt does not purchase all nine lots that had been originally granted to White Matlack. Rather, it was part of a “larger Lot of Ground” that had passed through various hands in the intervening twenty years, and came to be held by the Bank of Pennsylvania. (See Appendix Item Number 2)

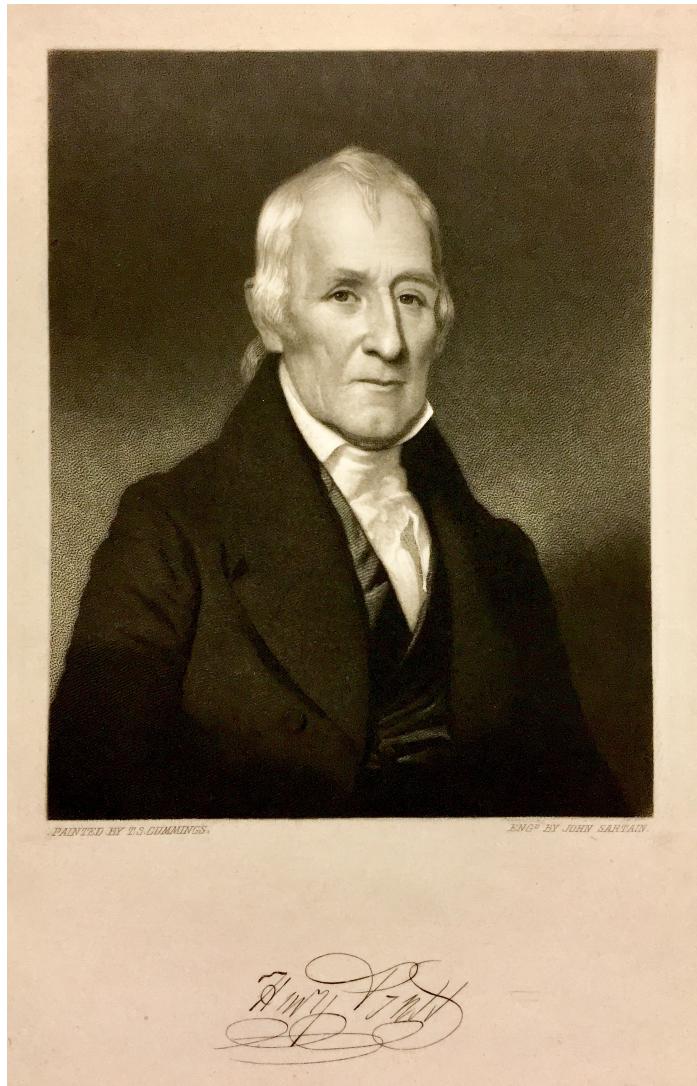


Figure 6. Portrait of Henry Pratt (1761-1838), mezzotint engraving by John Sartain, based on a portrait by T.S. Cummings (Image courtesy of the Dreer Collection in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

The Lives of Eminent Philadelphians, Now Deceased. Collected from original and authentic sources, by Henry Simpson, member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and published in 1859), provides background on Henry Pratt. He was an “eminent merchant” who “ultimately amassed a large fortune, and became the owner of a very large amount of real estate.” He is most famously remembered for having purchased the “celebrated country-seat” called Lemon Hill from Robert Morris (the same Robert Morris who helped finance the American Revolution, and was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States). Following Henry Pratt’s death in 1838 the City of Philadelphia purchased Lemon Hill from his estate, which the Department of Parks & Recreation considers the first parkland formally acquired by the City for the creation of Fairmount Park.

Then, in 1842, comes the sale we have been waiting for. The executors of Henry Pratt's estate sell for "the Sum of Sixteen Hundred Dollars lawful money... All the certain messuage or tenement and lot or piece of ground Situate on the North Side of Lombard Street at the distance of One Hundred and eighty Six feet three inches Westward from the West Side of Delaware Sixth Street..." to one *Solomon Clarkson*. Clarkson, we were to discover, was an African American, and, at one time, a slave. Here is the beginning of the indenture:

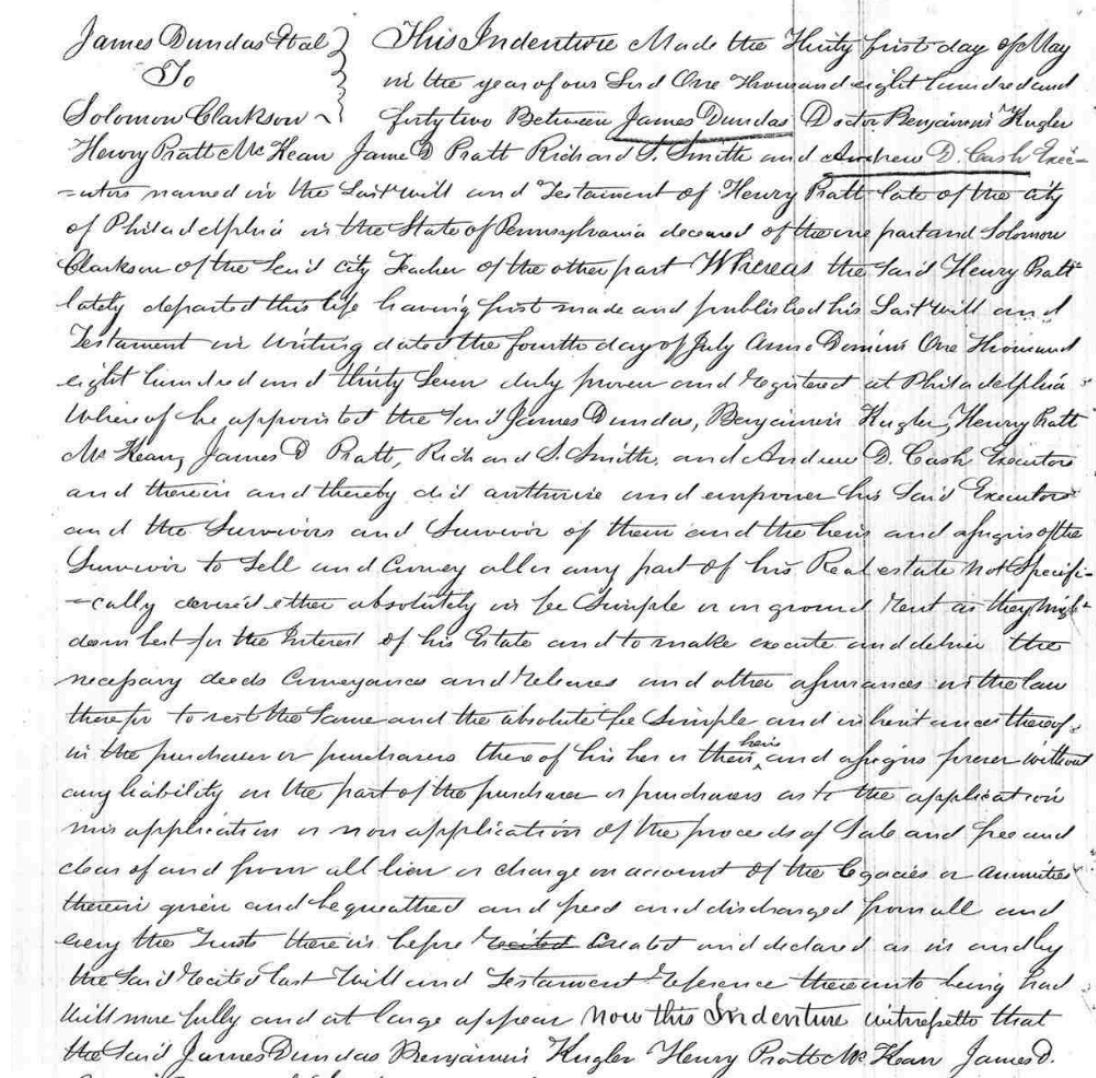


Figure 7 Introductory excerpt from the indenture for the property that would eventually be designated 623 Lombard to Solomon Clarkson from the Estate of Henry Pratt, 1842
Source: City Hall Archives of Philadelphia. For the full text, see Appendix Item Number 3.

It is significant in that it implies that the lots purchased by Henry Pratt in 1801 have now been developed into *messuages*, an archaic but still-used legal term for dwellings and their attendant outbuildings. And the precise measurement of the distance of the lot west from 6th Street, 186' 3", is of crucial importance in securing the identity of lot 121 on the Matlack survey and the property described in this indenture to Clarkson, as that of the future 623 Lombard.

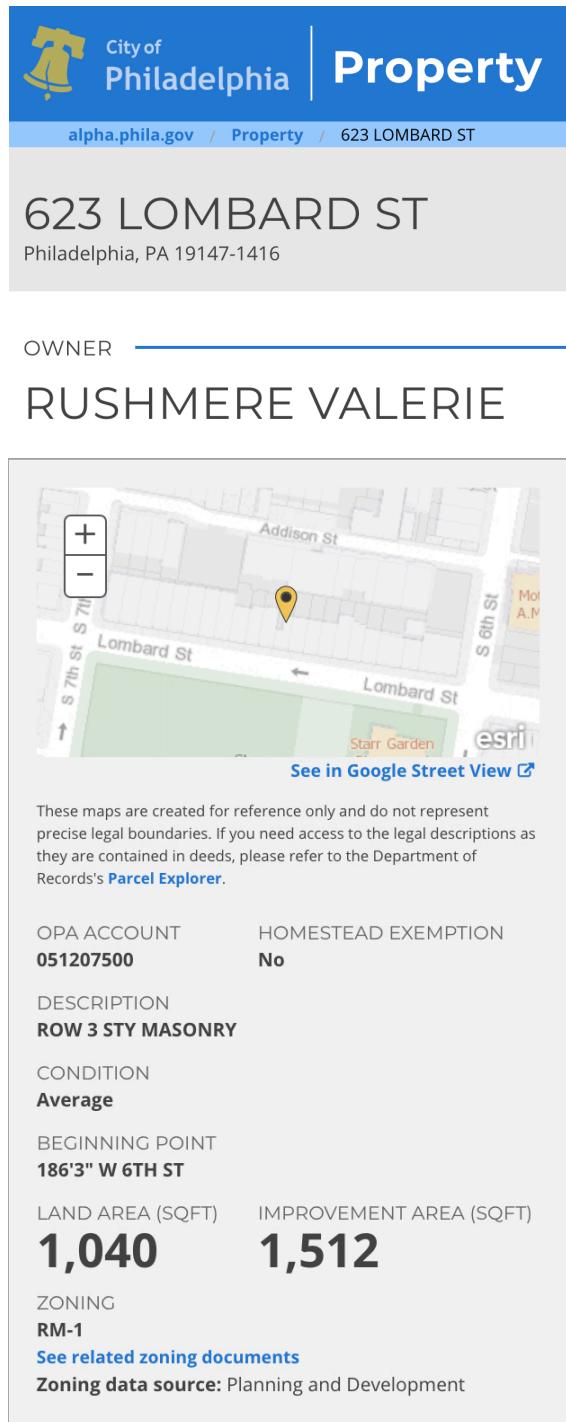


Figure 8. Computer screen shot from the Board of Revision of Taxes, City of Philadelphia. It documents 623 Lombard Street as 186 feet and 3 inches west of Sixth Street, the same measurements used to designate Clarkson's purchase in 1842. (Source: Downloaded January 11, 2018, from URL <http://property.phila.gov/?p=051207500>)

With Solomon Clarkson, we come to the nineteenth century star of the story of 623 Lombard with crucial supporting roles being filled by Philadelphia Quakers dedicated to the cause of rescuing slaves and helping them to new lives. We are fortunate to have had his tale recorded in *Isaac Hopper's Tales of Oppression 1780-1843*. The book *Kidnappers in Philadelphia*, edited and amplified with essays and indices by Daniel E. Meaders, includes Isaac Hopper's original piece, wherein it is recorded that "Solomon Clarkson was a slave to John Hanson of New-Castle County, in the State of Delaware. At an early age he was sensible of the degradation consequent upon his condition, and determined to obtain his freedom in the best way he could." By the time Solomon was nineteen he made his way (ran away, apparently!) to Philadelphia and was hired by Peter Barker, a Philadelphia Quaker Abolitionist. Barker, being sympathetic to Solomon's desire to be free, purchased him from John Hanson, "and Solomon agreed to live with him as a servant until the amount advanced should be refunded." In fact, Solomon's ambition lead him to work elsewhere (with Peter Barker's consent) and he not only managed to refund the advance, he was also able to obtain an education. "He had a remarkable capacity for learning, and in that time he made such advancement as qualified him to keep a school on his own account. He accordingly opened one in Philadelphia..." (For the full text of Hopper's tale see Item Number 4.)

Philadelphia City Directories of the period confirm that Solomon Clarkson was a teacher at 155 Lombard Street. This address may have been what is today 623 Lombard Street, but we can't be sure. It was not until 1856 that City Council passed an ordinance creating the street numbering system we are familiar with today, with the hundreds number separating each block (the 200 block, the 300 block, etc...). Author of *Philadelphia Street Name Changes*, Jefferson M. Moak notes, "Unfortunately, for historians, no conversion table has ever been assembled to date for individual house numbers. One of the problems with the old numbers was that no break was made at cross streets. As new buildings were erected and properties subdivided, either all of the buildings had to be renumbered or the same number was used for more than one building." Regardless, Solomon Clarkson was a teacher and the owner of what is today 623 Lombard Street.

There is a follow-up account of Solomon Clarkson's activity once he had obtained his freedom and secured an education in New Jersey in a handbook titled "Philadelphia in 1824; or, A Brief Account of The various Institutions and Public objects in this Metropolis: Being a Complete Guide for Strangers" etc. Here we learn that Solomon Clarkson was master of the boy's school branch of the Free School for the Education of Negro children. This was a charity founded by the Rev. Dr. Bray under Anglican auspices, supported by contributions from a long list of English and colonial benefactors. (See Appendix Item Number 5.)

Solomon Clarkson passed away in 1848. (Solomon Clarkson's full will is available on microfilm at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.) He left the property to a nephew, Tobias Hance, who lived in Ohio. Unsurprisingly, Tobias Hance did not move to Philadelphia from Ohio. He instead sold the property to James Smith. (For the full indenture from Hance to Smith, see Appendix Item Number 6.)

Extensive research into deeds, wills, estate briefs, insurance policies, numerous types of maps and surveys, and close to eighty newspaper articles failed to clarify when the messuages were built and who undertook their construction. But we do find in the 1999 inventory of structures in the Society Hill Historic District published by the Philadelphia Historical Commission this description of the houses built by 1838 on lots 611 through 629 on the north side of the 600 block of Lombard Street: “Ten, 3-story, 2-bay, red brick vernacular houses. Rectangular wood door surround; single-leaf 6-panel door; 3-light transom; double hung 6/6 sash on all floors; wood sills; 3-panel shutters 1st floor; marble stringcourse 2nd and 3rd floors; aluminum covered cornice;Built between 1801-38 for Henry Pratt, Esquire. Acquired by the Octavia Hill Association between 1911-43. Contributing.” The Society Hill District obtained historic district designation in 1999. (See Appendix Item Number 9 for the 1999 Philadelphia Historical Commission’s successful application to get the Society Hill area, which includes the 600 block of Lombard Street, designated as a historical district.) The ten houses, 611 through 629 Lombard, had already been individually designated to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places in 1984 (See Appendix Item Number 10), though I have not been able to determine at whose agency or on what grounds.

What is clear is that by the time Solomon Clarkson made his purchase in 1842, he was buying a house – the same house situated at 623 Lombard Street today. As Henry Pratt did not reside at the property, it is likely that Solomon Clarkson was the first person to own the home. With this in mind, and given the year of the purchase, it is also likely that the home was built closer to 1842 – rather than 1801, when Henry Pratt first obtained the property. It is possible that housing values at the time of Clarkson’s purchase were depressed by the fact that the neighborhood was notoriously overcrowded, dirty and plagued with disease and race riots. It is possible that by the time Clarkson bought the house, he chose it to be near the people he was most concerned to serve—his fellow African Americans.

Once James Smith had bought the house it remained with his heirs until 1925, when Harriet Moore transferred the property to Thomas Harrigan. During the course of this research no information was found for James Smith, although there is a listing in the 1909 Philadelphia City Directory for one of his heirs – a laborer named Jacob H. Moore living at 623 Lombard Street.

**WHEN YOU DO DRINK
DRINK
TRIMBLE
WHISKEY**

MOORE

" Henry S pub 628 Chestnut h 850 N 41st
" Henry S teacher h 3719 Gratz
" Henry T h 1822 E Psyk av

" H McKnight Rev h 4021 Walnut
" H S ins 921 Chestnut h 5337 Greenway av
" Ida F christian scientist 530 Perry bldg h Swarthmore
" Ida M stenogr h 141 E Duval Gtn
" Ira D brkman h 3026 Berks
" Irene (Moore & More) h 1124 Walnut
" Isaac painter 3404 N 17th
" Isaac weaver h 2178 E Letterly
" Isaac A lab h 1703 Thompson
" Isabella apartments 328 Spruce
" Jacob h 1026 Brown
" Jacob lab h 629 Panama
" Jacob H lab h 623 Lombard
" Jacob H B physician 2142 N 30th
" Jackson foreman h 210 N Marvine
" Jas h 921 Rodman
" Jas boilermkr h 1919 Pearl
" Jas blksmith h 425 N 8th
" Jas bookkn h 2250 N 10th

Figure 9 Jacob H. [Moore], a laborer, listed as living at 623 Lombard Street (Source: Philadelphia City Directory, 1909)

Thomas B. Harrigan and his wife Cassy C. did not keep the property very long. By 1928 they had sold the house to Clifford P. Allen 3rd and Frank P. Will. These men, along with their respective wives Margaret and Edna, again sold the property in the same year to Samuel and Benjamin Grabosky. Samuel and Benjamin, along with their wives, retained the property until 1933 when they sold it to the widow Ida Flitter. Ida Flitter and her heirs retained 623 Lombard Street for nine years. (Looking at this succession of names, one is tempted to imagine the house passing from white colonial to African American to English to Irish to Jewish and back to English owners.)

In 1942, a century after Solomon Clarkson’s purchase of the messuage from the estate of Henry Pratt, the Flitter family sold the property to the Octavia Hill Association. (See the trail of deeds documenting sales of 623 Lombard, each confirming the uniquely identifying measurement of the lot and its location in Appendix Item Number 7.) The Octavia Hill Association held the property for the next 46 years, until transferring the home to Lombard-Addison Way Inc. on May 17th, 1988. That brings us close to the year, 1994, in which Valerie Rushmere became the owner. Valerie’s indenture shows her buying the house at auction from The Bank and Trust of Old York Road based in Willow Grove. Valerie reports that a speculator had purchased 623 Lombard and several of its “sister” houses with an eye to “developing” them but ran out of money for the project. Close call!

Part II: The Neighborhood

From Richard Allen to W.E.B. Du Bois

Between 1791 and 1898 the immediate neighborhood of 623 Lombard Street (6th Street on the east, 7th Street on the west, Rodman Street – previously Saint Mary's or Carver Street – to the south, and Addison – previously Minster – to the north) was in many ways the epicenter for the struggle for African American rights in the United States of America. The efforts of some of the most prominent black and white citizens of the era were heavily concentrated and focused within this small section of the 5th Ward in the City of Philadelphia.

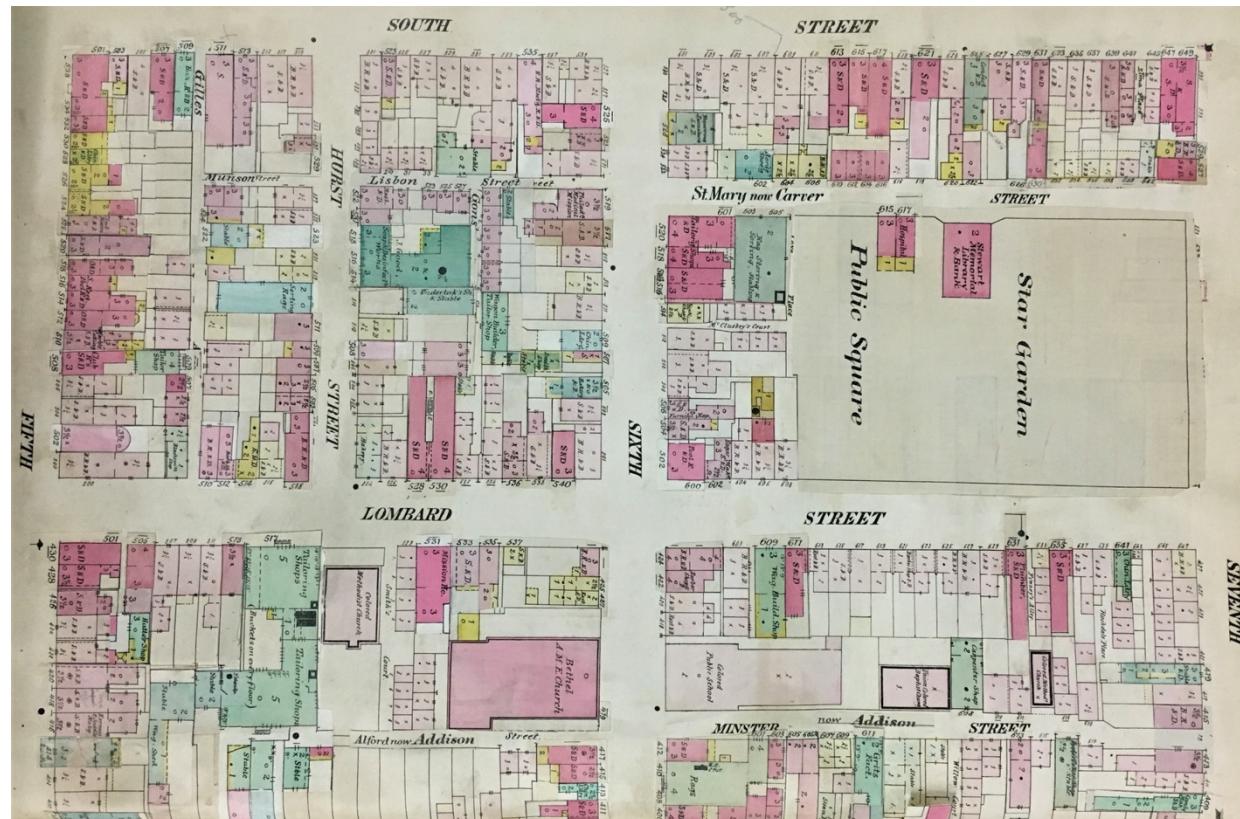


Figure 10. Insurance Map, 1872, showing the 600 block Of Lombard Street and nearby blocks (See Ernest Hexamer, *Insurance Maps of the City of Philadelphia*, cited in Bibliography.)

As we now know, although the plan for Philadelphia was laid out in 1683, the first home at 623 Lombard (and presumably the neighboring structures that clearly appear to be of the same style and construction) was not built until sometime after 1801 – and probably closer to the late 1830's. Yet, there were important developments in the neighborhood by the 1790's.

In 1791 Richard Allen, a former slave and subsequently the first bishop of the first African American denomination in the United States, founded the Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church. The site chosen, on the east side of 6th Street just north of Lombard Street, is the oldest parcel of land continuously owned by African Americans.



Figure 11. Mother Bethel AME Church, 1829 (Source: Library company of Philadelphia).

According to Julie Winch in her book *Philadelphia's Black Elite*, "Richard Allen arrived in Philadelphia in February of 1786, in response to the invitation of the local white Methodist elders to work with the growing numbers of black Methodists in the city." He preached to black members of St. George's Methodist Church, but his initial suggestion to create a separate church for African Americans was not well received by either whites or most "respectable" blacks.

The Neighborhood



Figure 12. Mother Bethel AME Church, 2017 (Photo by Joaquin Moreland-Sender)



Figure 13. Historical Marker, Mother Bethel AME Church

Nonetheless, the desire to create a church specifically for African Americans remained strong, and incidents of prejudice and censure further encouraged the eventual formation, in 1791, of both the African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (led by Absalom Jones), and Allen's A.M.E. Church. While there was opposition to the creation of a separate church for blacks, notable figures, such as Benjamin Rush (the noted physician, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and leading intellectual in the early years of the American republic), employed their talents and money to help create the first churches led by and for African Americans.

In W.E.B. Du Bois's seminal study, *The Philadelphia Negro*, the author noted that during the period between 1790 and 1810 the number of African Americans in Philadelphia County increased nearly five-fold, from 2,489 to 10,522, at a time when Philadelphia's population had risen to over 111,000 citizens.

Pennsylvania had passed the Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery in 1780, and this likely helped encourage the growth of the number of African Americans living in the city. That said, the road to emancipation was neither fast nor smooth, as we have already learned from the story of Solomon Clarkson. Yet some African Americans in Philadelphia, although facing tremendous prejudice, did not have to struggle with the severity of enslavement and the difficulties of achieving emancipation.

A notable example is James Forten, born in Philadelphia in 1766 to free African American parents. Forten served with the Patriots during the American Revolution and later, thanks to his considerable talent as sail maker and businessman, became one of the wealthiest citizens in the city. An active member in Absalom Jones's African Episcopal Church, James Forten was known for his leadership in the abolitionist movement, and his opposition to the goals of the American Colonization Society which sought to encourage and facilitate the migration of free African Americans to Africa. At a meeting held at Allen's A.M.E. Church in January of 1817 to discuss the colonization efforts, the 3,000 attendees were asked by James Forten to vote on whether they were for or against the goals of the ACS. With not a voice raised in favor, the gathered people proclaimed their opposition with a resounding "NO!" James Forten would later recall that it "seemed like it would bring down the walls of the building." As noted by Benjamin Quarels in his book, *Black Abolitionists*, p. 4, "...the assembly condemned the colonization scheme as an unmerited stigma upon the free Negro, and they vowed that they would never voluntarily separate themselves from their brethren in slavery."

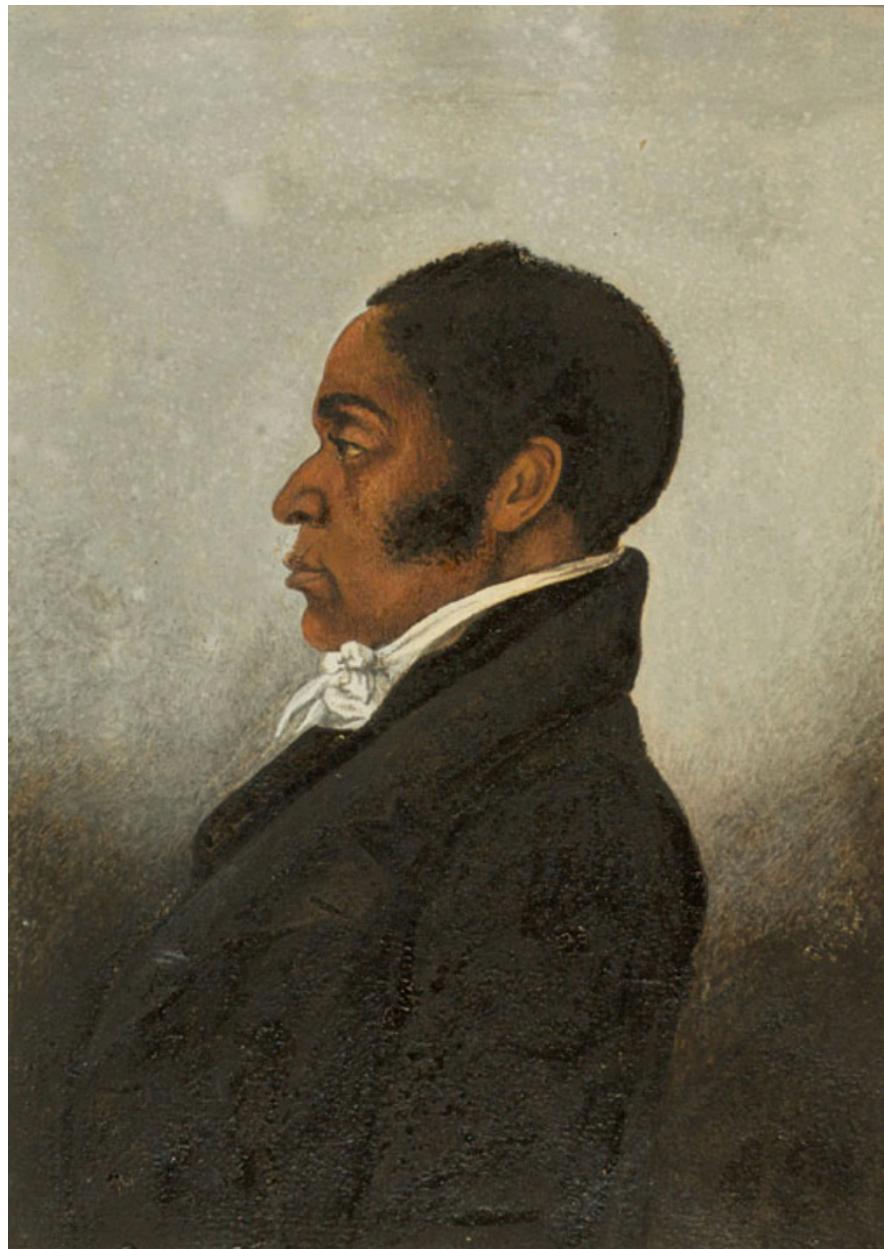


Figure 14. James Forten, probably by the African American artist Robert Douglass, Jr. ca. 1834 (Source: Portrait from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania).

James Forten died in 1842 (the same year in which Solomon Clarkson purchased the property at 623 Lombard Street), but his name came to grace the James Forten School on the west side of 6th Street, on the corner of Minster Street (now Addison), just north of Lombard and across the street from the Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church.

623 Lombard Street - A House with History

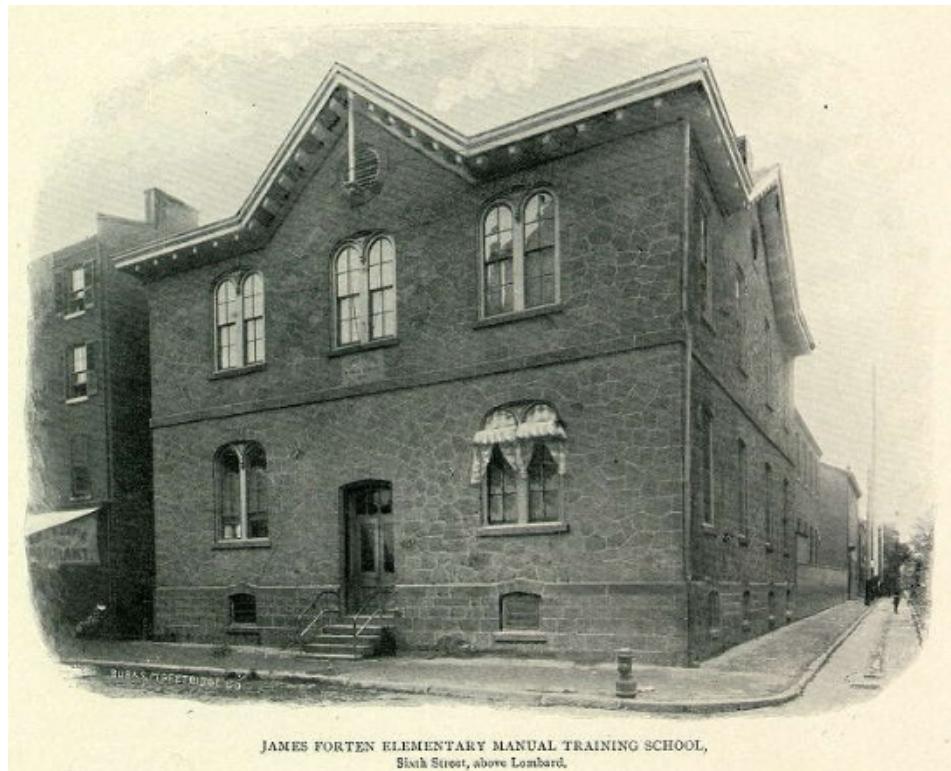


Figure 15. James Forten Elementary Manual Training School at 6th and Lombard, 1897 (Source: John Trevor Custis, *The Public Schools of Philadelphia, Historical, Biographical, Statistical*. Philadelphia: Burk & McFetridge Co., 1897)



Figure 16. Inside the James Forten School, 1910 (Source: City of Philadelphia Department of Records)

The Neighborhood

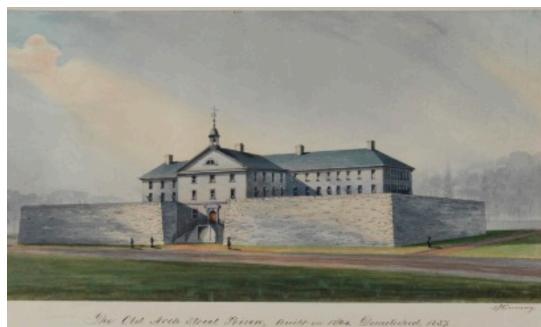
A few blocks west, at 9th and Lombard, lived James Forten's stepson Robert Purvis, a wealthy African American and leading abolitionist in his own right. In 1837, a time of rising Nativist sentiment, and growing fear among whites of free African Americans, Purvis authored the remarkable "Appeal of Forty Thousand Citizens, Threatened with Disenfranchisement, To the People of Pennsylvania." Until 1838, free black men in Pennsylvania could vote. But now, a proposed change to the State Constitution, which voters ratified in 1838 by the narrowest of margins (50.2% v 49.8%), saw the word "white" placed before the word "freemen" as a requirement for the right to vote. Purvis's valiant, but ultimately unsuccessful, appeal sought to galvanize support against the rescinding of voting rights for the likes of himself and his fellow African American men, including James Forten, his father-in-law, and Solomon Clarkson.

During this period the neighborhood of 623 Lombard Street was engulfed in waves of typhus epidemics. Poverty, crowding, lack of sanitary facilities and decent housing contributed to the hardships that must have inflamed relations between local ethnic groups. Dr. William Wood Gerhard in 1837 described the plague of typhus that struck the neighborhood the year before:

The patients were taken with the fever in various parts of the city and neighbouring districts, but by much the greatest number came from that part of the town which extends from Lombard street to a little below Shippen, and from Fifth to Eighth streets; this small but crowded district became almost an infected suburb. Within these limits the poorest and most intemperate of the inhabitants of Philadelphia reside... The disease appeared very soon in the prison (now taken down) in Arch street, but as the inmates of the prison came in great part from the infected district, it is possible that the disease may have been introduced by those who were admitted while laboring under it...

Classes of persons affected—The first patients were almost exclusively from the poorest and most intemperate class of people, chiefly day-labourers. Such was the case with most of the blacks, especially the men, who were almost without exception in the habit of drinking freely of ardent spirits. The women were without fixed occupations, or were servants out of place. As the disease extended to the different parts of the city, people of various occupations were affected, amongst them there was one respectable physician, who died of the fever...

Source: page 297 in Gerhard, 1837, cited in Bibliography



Arch Street Prison, constructed in 1807 at Broad and Arch Street and demolished in 1837. It held no criminals, but rather vagrants, debtors and poor people. Watercolor by David J. Kennedy. Image from Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Source: Kristin O'Brassill-Kulfan **Arch Street Prison: A prison without convicts.** (September 10, 2015). <http://staffblogs.le.ac.uk/carchipelago/2015/09/10/arch-street-prison-a-prison-without-convicts/>

This was also a period of severe economic crisis and, consequently, desperate competition. The Panic of 1837 brought on a depression that lasted into the early 1840's. Unemployment soared, sometimes well over 25% in Philadelphia, pitting those on the lower rungs of the economic ladder against one another – Irish Catholics and African Americans in particular. On several occasions the tension turned violent.

Such was the case in 1842, the year in which the Lombard Street Riot took place. A mob of white Irish Catholics attacked some 1,000 African American citizens who had gathered to celebrate Jamaican Emancipation Day. The conflagration, which lasted several days, resulted in the looting and destruction of many buildings and homes. The riot also extended many blocks beyond the starting point, including westward on Lombard past Solomon Clarkson's home at No. 623, and toward the home of Robert Purvis at 9th Street.

Fortunately, both residences were spared. Here is a contemporary news account:

Riot in Philadelphia. Conflicts between whites and blacks.

The well known inveterate hostility existing between the laboring whites, and colored population of the southern section of the city, again broke the bounds of law on Monday last, and a fearful riot ensued.

It appears that the colored people had determined to make a formal display in celebration of the emancipation of their brethren in the British West Indies. Without exactly avowing that object, they ostensibly proposed it as a temperance procession. Banners, however, were displayed which sufficiently indicated their object in selecting the day they did for the parade—answering to the anniversary of the event alluded to. Amongst those banners, one in broad letters was inscribed "Liberty or Death" another "Free Trade and Sailors Rights."

When the procession reached Fourth and Plumb streets, in the district of Southwark, it was attacked by a volley of stones, thrown by the whites, and a mischievous boy provoked a fight with one of those in the procession, a lad of about equal size, which was the origin of the whole serious results that followed. The black boy was considerably beaten by the white one, at which a black man struck the white boy over the head, and then a general fight in which thousands took part ensued—and continued the whole day. The blacks were seriously beaten at the onset, but rallied and thrashed the whites... fighting with clubs, sticks, stones, brick-bats and whatever missiles they could obtain, until they reached the corner of sixth and Lombard streets, within the precincts of the city. Some of the blacks took refuge in their own meeting houses in that neighborhood, and their procession having been dispersed, the whites went to work and destroyed houses and property indiscriminately, so that they belonged to or were occupied by blacks...

Source: *The Niles' National Register*, August 6, 1842, page 356. (See Appendix Item Number 11 for the full account.)



Figure 17. Lombard Street Riot Marker (Photo by Joaquin Moreland-Sender)

As Philadelphia emerged from the long economic downturn, population continued to grow. Industrialization, the Great Famine in Ireland (1845-52), and (after a slight ebbing in the 1840's) the continued African American migration from the South contributed to Philadelphia County's growth from roughly 250,000 people in 1840, to approximately 600,000 citizens on the eve of the Civil War. The birthplace of American democracy and independence was the second largest city in the nation, and likely the fourth largest city in the Western world, with only New York, London and Paris surpassing it at the time. Yet, despite its heritage as the cradle of liberty, antebellum merchants and bankers in Philadelphia had deep connections in the South, resulting in considerable acceptance of a system dependent on slave labor.

The 5th Ward, home to 623 Lombard Street, was 21% African American at this stage. As Russell Weigley notes in his essay, *The Border City in Civil War 1854-1865*, they "lived there, of course, because their occupations as domestic and menial workers for the best of families of the city brought them." He adds that, "the economic position of blacks was steadily deteriorating from a very low base." The new factories springing to life in the Industrial Age typically barred blacks from employment, while lower level positions, "such

as hod carrier and stevedore, had fallen to the Irish... Blacks born and living free in Philadelphia were less likely to have stable family lives than those coming to the city out of slavery."

As war approached, many Philadelphia merchants and bankers were invested in the South's economy, based on slave labor, and were openly sympathetic to the southern cause. Few were eager to see the Union dissolved for the sake of African Americans. Until very near the onset of the war, the citizens of the city sided with the Democratic Party, the party most closely tied to the defense of slavery and its expansion to states in the western part of the country. An address by Republican President Lincoln at the State House in 1861 had the effect of turning the tide in favor of the Republicans, but this seemed to be rooted more in the hope of preserving the Union and the democratic principles upon which the nation had been founded, rather than any desire to aid the cause of the abolition of slavery.

Once war had begun, it was not until the city came under threat from Robert E. Lee's army in 1863 that the enlistment of African Americans was allowed in the state of Pennsylvania. On June 30, 1863, George W. Fahnestock, in a diary held by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, noted, "I saw several hundred colored men in procession march up Sixth Street to Chestnut, and up Chestnut Street. They were not uniformed nor armed, but were a good-looking body of men." Lee's army never reached Philadelphia, having been defeated by General Meade in the Battle of Gettysburg on July 1-3, 1863. African American slaves in the Confederate States had been freed by the Emancipation Proclamation earlier in the year.



Figure 18. Recruitment poster for colored troops, Philadelphia, 1863 (Courtesy of Library Company of Philadelphia, digital collection)

The Neighborhood

Although the Union won the war and the United States was preserved, neither the living conditions of African Americans nor the antipathy of whites towards blacks in Philadelphia improved much. Indeed, even before the war had concluded, African American soldiers and their wives were barred from riding street cars. In early 1864 a young African American school teacher, Octavius V. Catto, who as a child had attended the segregated Lombard Grammar School, organized a meeting to rally people behind the cause of allowing blacks to ride the street cars. They were not entirely successful, but by the end of the year some city lines were opened up – including those that ran along 6th Street.

Catto continued to champion African American rights until his death. On October 10, 1871, he was on his way to vote, a right restored only in 1869 when Pennsylvania ratified the Fifteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. A racist Irish zealot murdered him at 9th and South Streets on his way to the polls. Nearly 136 years later, the City of Philadelphia unveiled a statue on the south apron of City Hall to commemorate Octavius V. Catto, the first statue to be dedicated by the City of Philadelphia in recognition of a solitary African American figure.



Figure 19. Statue of Octavius Catto unveiled at Philadelphia City Hall, September 26, 2017 (Photo by Helen Armstrong for *Philadelphia Magazine*)

Five years after the end of the American Civil War, the majority of African Americans continued to live in wretched circumstances in Philadelphia. This was certainly the case in the 5th Ward, and the neighboring 7th Ward. But change was coming to the area in the form of new immigrants and new efforts at social reform. Both would impact the neighborhood around 623 Lombard Street.

As noted by John F. Sutherland in *The Origins of Philadelphia's Octavia Hill Association: Social Reform in the "Contented" City*, “Between 1870 and 1910 Philadelphia's Russian-born population increased from 94 to 90,696, while the figures for Italian-born climbed from 516 to 45,308. These immigrants moved into the city's unhealthy southern wards. Italians settled heavily in the second, third, and twenty-sixth wards, while Russians concentrated in wards one through five and the thirty-ninth ward. At the same time, black migrants from the South moved from the third, fourth, and fifth wards into the seventh ward.”

During this era, the back of Philadelphia's common rowhouses “facilitated the proliferation of invisible rear courts and alleys which were usually unpaved, unsewered, and serviced by court hydrants and foul, rotting privies. Well into the early 20th century, over 60,000 properties still used a privy!” This was particularly common “in the notorious ‘Alaska District’ - a network of courts and alleys, bounded by Fifth and Ninth Streets and by Christian and Pine,” an area that included the 5th Ward. The district “had long been infamous as a center of riot, disease, and poverty.” It is in this area that many efforts at social reform were targeted.

While many whites held strongly racist views, a number of determined white activists fought on behalf of, and side by side with, African Americans. Three names stand out for their roles in leading organizations both in the Fifth Ward and in the City of Philadelphia as a whole: Parrish, Wharton, and Starr.

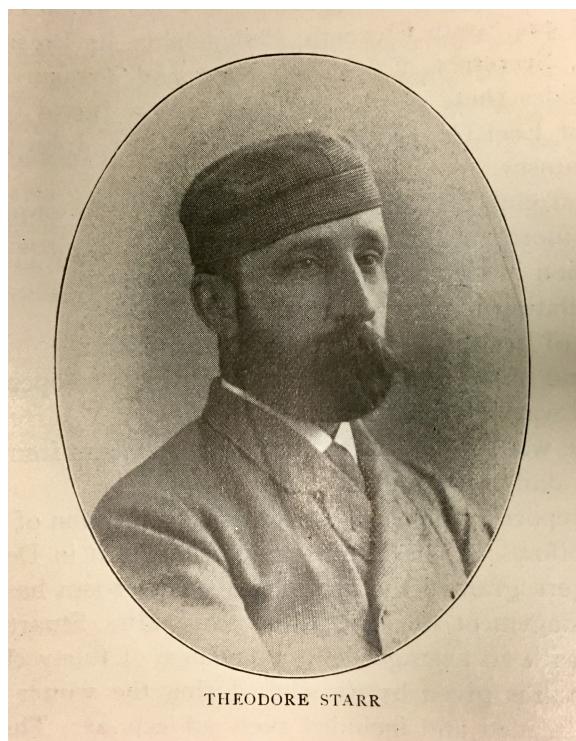
Dr. Joseph Parrish (1779-1840) was a prominent Quaker, respected physician and a president of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society. (He was also the great-grandfather of the celebrated artist Maxfield Parrish). His son Dillwyn Parrish, for many years president of the College of Pharmacy, would also go on to be a president of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society from 1851-1886. However, it is his daughter Susanna, and her daughter Susan, that have the clearest impact on the neighborhood around 623 Lombard.

Susanna Parrish had married into the prominent Wharton family (her husband, Rodman, was the brother of Joseph Wharton, a co-founder of Bethlehem Steel and later founder of the Wharton School of Business. An ancestor of Rodman, Thomas I. Wharton, was one of the founders of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and his home was the first site of the society). An activist in her own right, Susanna was one of the founders of the Children's Aid Society, and was a friend of Octavia Hill. (A social reformer from London, in 1864 Octavia Hill was instrumental in developing housing opportunities for low income residents. While sympathetic to her poor tenants, she also insisted that rent be paid. A key component to her success was the employment of “friendly rent collectors,” who were expected to also offer guidance on such matters as behavior, good housekeeping and child rearing.) The connection between Susanna Parrish Wharton and Octavia Hill would prove to be important to Susan Parrish Wharton, Susanna's daughter.

The Neighborhood

Susan, having inherited the family tradition of social activism, became involved in efforts to improve the living conditions of African Americans residing in the neighborhood of 6th & Lombard Streets. She lived at nearby 910 Clinton Street, where the home still stands today. Here is a passage describing her work from V.P. Franklin's essay, "Operation Street Corner", which is featured in the compendium, W.E.B. DuBois, *Race and The City*.

Susan} Wharton was closely tied to a series of ventures to improve the housing and living conditions of Philadelphia's Fifth Ward, an area with some of the city's most dilapidated housing and poorest families. In 1880, philanthropist Theodore Starr purchased a lot on St. Mary Street in South Philadelphia and built the first of several homes he rented at low cost to black residents of the area. When Susan Parrish Wharton graduated from Vassar College in 1884, she opened St. Mary Street Library, near the Starr homes, for poor black children. Wharton was joined at the library by her cousin Helen Parrish; together they worked closely to found a branch of the Octavia Hill Association in Philadelphia in 1888...[The Octavia Hill Association was a housing reform group that bought and renovated decrepit housing in the city to rent to struggling families.] Wharton also continued her activities at St. Mary Street, opening a cooking school in 1890, offering penny lunches to poor children in 1894, and sponsoring a kindergarten in 1902. In 1892, Susan P. Wharton, drawing from a network of female college graduates interested in social reform, invited the College Settlement Association to establish a branch in Philadelphia in one of the houses originally built by Theodore Starr, which Wharton had acquired in 1890. The St. Mary Street Library and Neighborhood house merged with the College Settlement Association in 1892.



**Figure 20. Theodore Starr from The Starr Centre Association *History of a Street*, 1901
(Source: Historical Society of Pennsylvania.)**

Apart from offering low cost housing, Theodore Starr, who died in 1884, was behind many other efforts in the neighborhood aimed at remedying the poor living standards of its most destitute residents. Among his projects we find the Starr Center, the Starr Library, the Starr Kitchen, the Star Centre Co-operative Shoe Club, the Co-operative Coal Club, and the Theodore Starr Savings Bank. He was also behind the creation of the initial and small version of the Starr Garden Park, which today occupies the entire square block bounded by Lombard, Rodman, 6th and 7th Streets – directly across the street from the house at 623 Lombard.



Figure 21. Star[sic] Centre Co-operative Shoe Club from the Susan P. Wharton scrapbook at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania

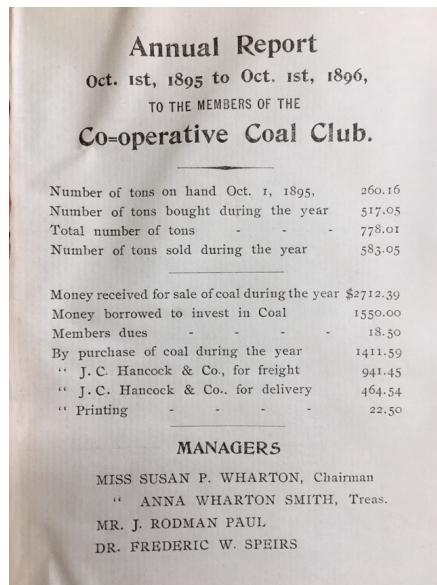


Figure 22. Annual Report of the Co-operative Coal Club, with Susan Parrish Wharton as Chairman. (Source: From the Susan P. Wharton scrapbook at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania)

Starr Garden began as a modest park in what was considered one of the city's worst slums. Crime and grime pervaded the neighborhood, and it was no surprise that the likes of Theodore Starr and Susan Parrish Wharton came to focus their considerable talent and resources where they did. However, by the turn of the century the City of Philadelphia had also become more involved in trying to alleviate some of the worst problems that stemmed from poverty and overcrowding. At a time when Philadelphia was experiencing its greatest population growth (jumping from nearly 850,000 in 1880 to almost 1,600,000 by 1910), the city cleared an entire block of homes and businesses to create the Starr Garden that still exists today. In 1911 they erected a handsome recreation center that occupied a significant portion of the north side of Rodman Street. Sadly, it was torn down in the 1950's.



Figure 23. Starr Garden in 1913 - Built in 1911, demolished in the 1950's (Source: Postcard)



Figure 24. Starr Garden, 6th and Lombard, 1914 (Source: City of Philadelphia Department of Records)



Figure 25. Starr Garden, 600 Block of Lombard Street, 2017 (Photo by Joaquin Moreland-Sender)

Susan Wharton is acknowledged by W.E.B. Du Bois in *The Philadelphia Negro*, as instrumental in convincing the University of Pennsylvania to help facilitate the undertaking of his groundbreaking sociological study. Writing to Dr. Charles C. Harrison, Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, in 1895, Wharton explained, “We should like the co-operation of the University in a plan for better understanding of the colored people, especially of their position in this city... to obtain a body of reliable information as to the obstacles to be encountered by the colored people in their endeavor to be self-supporting.” She was successful in her petition, and Du Bois arrived in 1897, occupying a home at 617 Carver Street (formerly Saint Mary Street, and now Rodman). The home stood where Starr Garden is today.

By this time there were close to 2,500 African American residents living in the 5th Ward, which had close to 15,000 white residents. The neighboring 4th, 7th and 8th Wards held over 50% of the city’s black population, with the 7th Ward – the focus of Du Bois’s study – comprising nearly 25% of African Americans living in Philadelphia.



Figure 26. W.E.B Du Bois Historical Marker at 6th and Rodman, Mother Bethel AME Church in background (Photo by Joaquin Moreland-Sender)

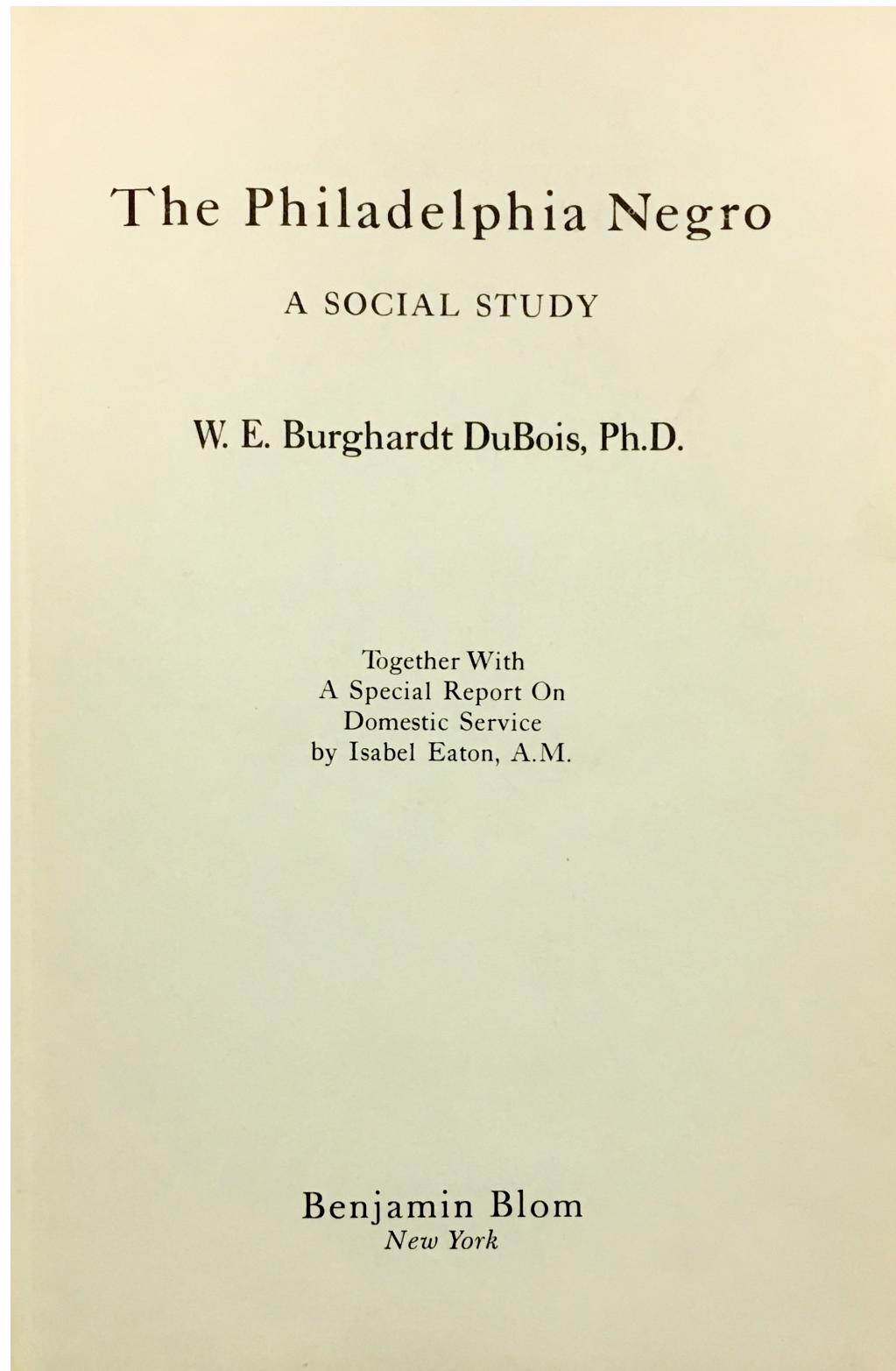


Figure 27. Title page of *The Philadelphia Negro*, by W. E. B. DuBois This was a social study focused on the 7th Ward. DuBois lived just a half block away from 623 Lombard, in the 5th Ward, while he did his research.

Additional Notes and Notable Buildings

By agreement, the foregoing short and incomplete history of the neighborhood around 623 Lombard Street does not encompass much beyond the 20th century. However, two establishments that came to be built along Lombard Street between 7th and 5th Streets and between 1909 and 1910 are worthy of mention. They reflect the ongoing efforts to improve the lot of people living in poor conditions, as well the changing demographics of the area – both of which, as we have seen, had roots in the late 19th century.

The first establishment of note was the Henry Phipps Institute of the University of Pennsylvania for the Prevention and Cure of the Tuberculosis. The Institute was named after its benefactor Henry Phipps, a Philadelphia philanthropist. (Phipps and Andrew Carnegie cofounded Carnegie Steel Company.) Construction of this beautiful building began in 1909 with the demolition of old homes from 631 to 647 Lombard Street. According to commentary accompanying a picture like the one below in the Collections of the University of Pennsylvania Archives, "...the [Phipps] Institute pioneered the care of the hard-hit African American population, training African-American physicians and public health nurses to work with the community."

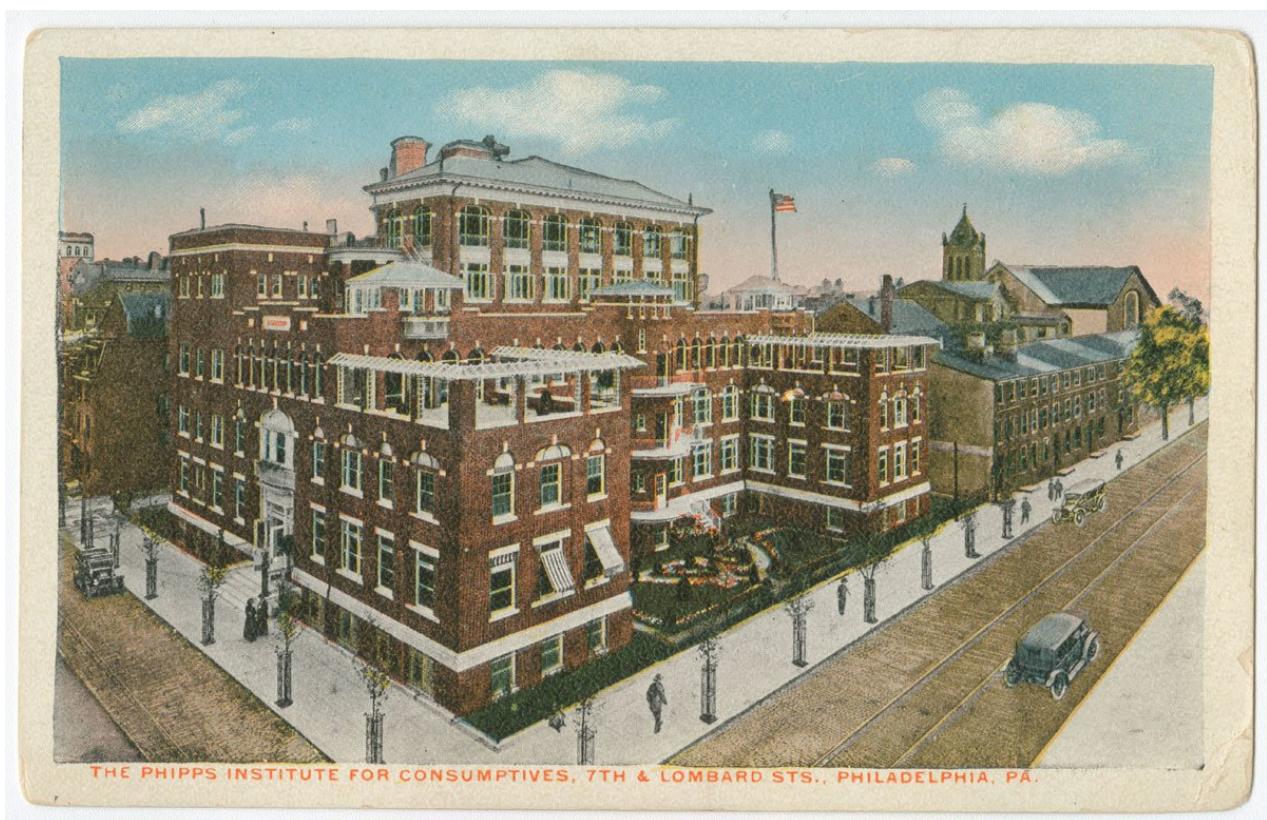


Figure 28. The Phipps Institute for Consumptives (Tuberculosis) at 7th and Lombard Streets. It is now gone. 623 Lombard is visible in the group of rowhouses on the right. (Source: Postcard)

623 Lombard Street - A House with History

This enormous educational institution occupied the northeast corner of 7th and Lombard, just a few doors east of 623 Lombard Street. It is unclear when it was torn down, but today its former location is occupied by modern row homes. (See Appendix Item Number 8 for a photo of Dr. Florence Seibert working at the Phipps Institute around 1934. She describes the mission of the Phipps Institute in her book, *Pebbles on the Hill of a Scientist*, St. Petersburg, Florida, 1968.)

The other establishment calling for attention is the B'nai Abraham Synagogue located on Lombard Street east of the Mother Bethel A.M.E. Church. The location was previously occupied by a splinter group from Mother Bethel, known as the A.M.E. Zion congregation. While B'nai Abraham was established in 1874, the Byzantine Revival style building that houses the synagogue today was designed by Philadelphia architect Charles Lewis Bolton, and built between 1909 and 1910, a time when Russian and Eastern European Jews came to prominence in the neighborhood. It is the oldest purpose-built synagogue in continuous use in Philadelphia.



Figure 29. B'nai Abraham Synagogue, 2017 (Photo by Joaquin Moreland-Sender)

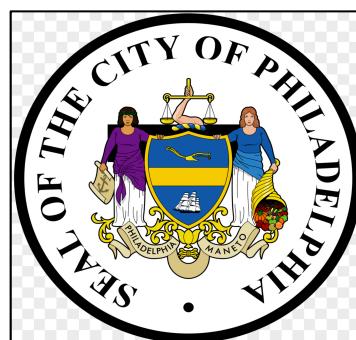
Final Thoughts

Uncovering the history of 623 Lombard Street and the surrounding neighborhood has connected us to the expansion of the city, the American Revolution, signers of the Declaration of Independence, key figures and events in the struggle for African American rights, trends in migration and immigration, the founders of numerous institutions, as well as a variety of social reform efforts and movements. The strength and perseverance of the likes of Richard Allen, James Forten, Robert Purvis, Solomon Clarkson, Octavius Catto, Theodore Starr, W.E.B. Du Bois, Susanna and Susan Parrish Wharton, and many others are testament to the promise of Philadelphia as the cradle of liberty and democracy in the modern world.

One wonders whether these individuals could have imagined that several African American mayors and countless other public officials of color would serve the City of Philadelphia and that citizens of the United States would one day elect an African American president.

Yet, some of the fundamental obstacles faced by African Americans in the neighborhood around 623 Lombard during the time period that has been the focus of this history remain with us today. The struggle for equal rights and protections under the law continues, a daily challenge for many African Americans throughout the country. Furthermore, modern Philadelphia is considered to have the highest poverty rate of any big city in the country. A study done by the Urban League of Philadelphia just a few years ago entitled *The State of Black Philadelphia* noted that 32% of African American residents live below the poverty line – twice the percentage for white residents. While African Americans now represent over 40% of Philadelphia’s population, the highest concentration of black residents is no longer to be found in the 5th and 7th Wards – a consequence of the economic and demographic forces that are constantly reshaping the city.

So, as we celebrate the rich history of 623 Lombard Street and its immediate environs, it is worth remembering that the work begun by many of the figures we have come to learn about is far from complete.



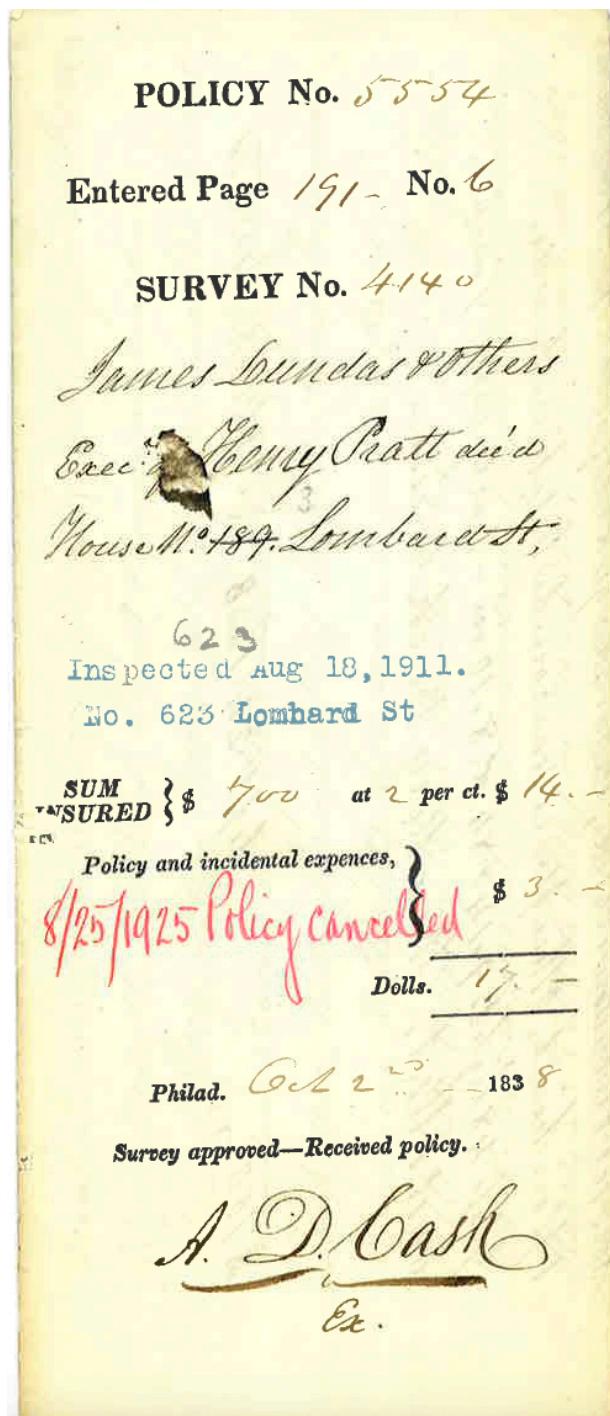


Michael Nutter, elected Mayor of Philadelphia for two terms, in 2007 and 2011.

Appendix

Item number 1

Mutual Assurance Policy #5554, Survey #4140, 1838, with a description of the property, updated from 1838 through 1911 and finally canceled in 1922.



Survey, James Guerard, Doct^r Benjamin Hugler
 Henry Pratt McLean, James & Pratt, Richard S. Smith and
 Andrew G. Cash, Executors of Henry Pratt esq^r
 A Three Story Brick house, situate N^o. 189, on the North side of
 Lombard, between Sixth & Seventh Streets, Being the seventh
 Easternmost house of Eleven in a Row,
 Front 16 feet including half a 2 foot Chimney Alley, Depth 17 feet,
 First Story, in One Room, neat Mantle, subbase, washb^b &
 windows cased, A small box Entry, Square head front door,
 neat Lamb's Mouldings, — Second Story, in one Room,
 plain Mantle, washb^b, Closet & windows cased,
 Third Story, in one Room, plain Mantle, washb^b, closet &
 windows cased, No garret, Loft not floor'd or plaster'd,
 Trap door, cedar Shingle Roof, Tin gutter conductor, wood
 cornice, 2 flights common winding stairs, —
 Kitchen, 11 feet by 16 feet, Two Stories high, First Story, plain
 Mantle, deeper, washb^b, window cased, 1 flight common winding
 stairs, — Second Story, in one Room, plain Mantle, washb^b,
 closet & windows cased, cedar Shingle Roof, wood Spout & conductor
 1 floor heart, other floors narrow white pine boards,
 Glass 48 lights 9 1/4 x 8 1/4 d. 8 1/4 in - party walls 9 inches,
 East & West, Three Story Brick houses -
 Sept 24. 1838, Philip Justus

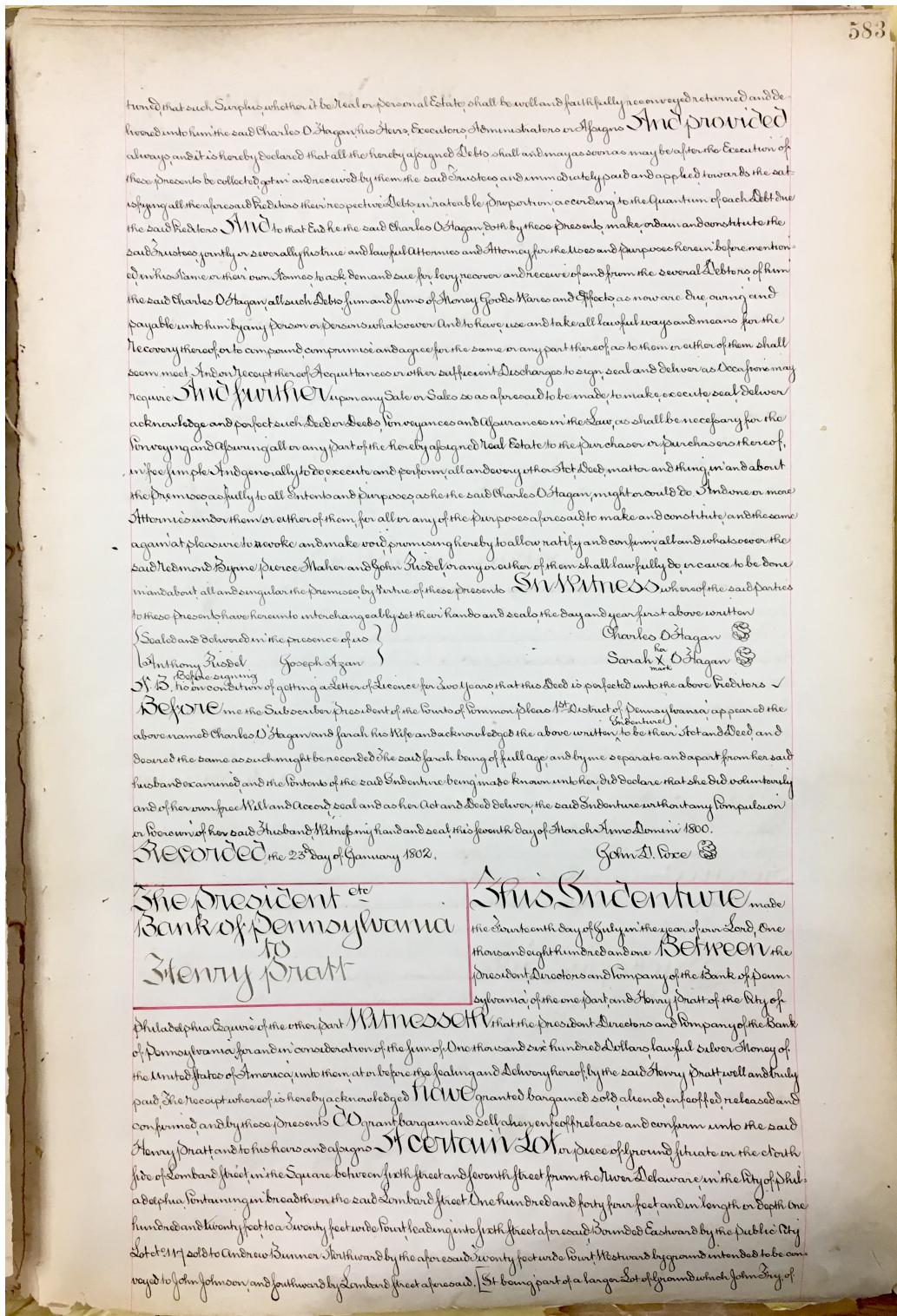
Inspected Aug 18. 1911. This building remains as per Survey
 Walter Trydaef
 Surveyor

Paid Fire loss Jan 16 1922 26 63

Appendix

Item Number 2

Indenture of sale of the property by the Bank of Pennsylvania to Henry Pratt - Deed Book EF No. 10.
pages 583-585. (Philadelphia City Archives)



the City of Philadelphia Merchant and Hennion his wife by Indenture bearing date the nineteenth day of February in the year One thousand seven hundred and ninety nine recorded at Philadelphia in Deed Book A^t 44 page 123 granted and conveyed unto John Barclay in fee and the said John Barclay by two several Indentures of Mortgage granted the same among other Lands and tenements unto Charles Biddle, Joseph Parker Morris, Samuel Shickel, William Miller and Robert Halston their heirs and assigns for securing to them the payment of a certain debt And the said Charles Biddle, Joseph Parker Morris, Samuel Shickel, etc., William Miller and Robert Halston did on the thirty first day of January One thousand seven hundred and ninety seven grant a quit claim transfer and set over unto the President Directors and Company of the Bank of Pennsylvania the debt due by the said John Barclay And also the said two Mortgages and all their Estates right title Interest Property Claim and Demand of and in the premises in and by the said Mortgages granted and conveyed And the said John Barclay by Indenture bearing date the nineteenth day of December One thousand seven hundred and ninety nine (recorded at Philadelphia in Deed Book C^t 16 page 509^t) granted unto the President Directors and Company of the Bank of Pennsylvania the equity of redemption of him the said John Barclay in and to the Mortgaged premises **In trust** to sell and convey the premises for certain purposes therein mentioned and expressed **Together** with the use and privilege of the twenty feet wide court aforesaid in common with the other persons interested or to be interested thereon And together also with all and singular other the Ways Waters Watercourses rights Members Tenements and Appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining And the lever of this and all members of the Bank of Pennsylvania and profits thereof And all the Estate right title Interest Property Claim and Demand whatsoever of them the President Directors and Company of the Bank of Pennsylvania in Law Equity or otherwise howe'er of in and to the same **So have and to hold** the said described lot or piece of ground hereditaments and premises hereby granted with the appurtenances unto the said Henry Pratt his heirs and assigns and for the only proper use and behoof of the said Henry Pratt his heirs and assigns forever

I W^t the President Directors and Company of the Bank of Pennsylvania for themselves and their successors do covenant promise and agree to and with the said Henry Pratt his heirs and assigns by these presents that they the President Directors and Company of the Bank of Pennsylvania and their Successors the said described lot or piece of ground hereditaments and premises hereby granted with the appurtenances unto the said Henry Pratt his heirs and assigns against them the President Directors and Company of the Bank of Pennsylvania and their Successors and against all and every other person and persons whatsoever lawfully claiming to claim by from or under them or any of them shall and will warrant and forever defend by these presents **In testimony**

whereof the President Directors and Company of the Bank of Pennsylvania have caused their

common seal to be affixed to these presents dated the day and year first above written

Attest. Gen^r Smith Esq^r

RECEIVED the day of the date of the above written Indenture of the above named Henry Pratt the sum of One thousand six hundred Dollars being the full consideration Money above mentioned

Gen^r Smith Esq^r

Brief of the Title to the within granted Lot.

1751 September 3rd Patent from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in grant unto Philetus Matlack in fee (Recorded in Deed Book A^t 16 page 123) inter alia sine public City Lots (whereof the within granted is part) marked and distinguished in the general plan of the Public City Lots A^t 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125 and 126.

1790 October 15th Indenture the said Philetus Matlack and Mary his wife granting unto John Dry within a (Recorded in Deed Book A^t 16 page 285^t) mod in fee the within described lot being part of the said sine public lots together with the free use and privilege of the within mentioned twenty feet wide court.

1794 April 15th Indenture 15th of February 1794 John Dry granted unto John Barclay in fee the within (Recorded in Deed Book A^t 16 page 123) described lot being part of the said sine public lots together with the free use and privilege of the within mentioned twenty feet wide court John Barclay by two several Indentures of Mortgage granted the within lots among others to C. Biddle, D. Morris, S. M. Soc, Wm Miller and R. Halston for securing a certain debt I W^t the said C. Biddle and others did on the 31 Jan^r 1797 convey unto the President Directors of the Bank of Penn^a the said debt due, and the said 2 Mortgages, and all their right in the premises I W^t the said Barclay by Indenture

Appendix

585

Dated 19 Dec 1797 Recorded in Deed Book etc 76 page 509¹ granted unto the B. of Penn^a the Equity of Redemption in
the Mortgaged Premises ~~~~~
Recorded 25th day of January 1802 ~

Item Number 3

Isaac Hopper's story of Solomon Clarkson, from *National Anti-Slavery Standard*

(July 15, 1841, page 22)

“Solomon Clarkson was a slave to John Hanson of New-Castle country, in the State of Delaware. At an early age he was sensible of the degradation consequent upon his condition, and determined to obtain his freedom in the best way he could. He was well aware that if he complained of hardship, or manifested much dissatisfaction with the condition of slavery, that his master would soon put it out of his power to seek his liberty in another part of the country, by disposing of him to some speculator, who would transport him to the South. As he increased in years his desire for freedom increased also; and in the year 1803, when he was about nineteen years old, he left his master and made the best of his way to Philadelphia. After being in that city a short time, he hired with Peter Barker; and in the course of a few months he opened his situation to that kind-hearted friend. Knowing he could not be long safe in Philadelphia, Peter applied to me [Isaac Hopper] to negotiate with his master for his freedom. Solomon was a fine-looking young man, healthy and well made, and every way calculated for making a valuable slave, and Hanson was by no means disposed to part with him without securing a good price. I addressed a letter to Hanson, informing him that I had been applied to on behalf of Solomon, and wished him to name the lowest terms upon which he would manumit him. After some time had been spent in corresponding on the subject, he agreed to take one hundred pounds, or two hundred and sixty-six dollars, sixty-seven cents. Peter Barker paid this sum, and Solomon agreed to live with him as a servant until the amount advanced should be refunded.

Solomon’s condition was now changed, but he soon began to aspire to something higher than that of a servant and Peter consented to his making an effort to rise above it. He accordingly left his place, and hired with a doctor Reynolds. In the course of a few years, he managed to raise a sum of money sufficient to pay Peter Barker the balance due to him, and to defray the expenses of education in a respectable school in Allen Town, New Jersey. He went to that institution in the year 1812, and remained in it between one and two years. He had a remarkable capacity for learning, and in that time he made such advancement as qualified him to keep a school on his own account. He accordingly opened one in Philadelphia, and has ever since been employed in that line of business. He has been, and continues to be, very useful. Solomon Clarkson generally visits me, in New York, once a year. The last time I saw him was in the eighth month, last year; he then informed me that he had thirty scholars. He possesses unusual intelligence for the opportunities he has had, and has conducted so as to conciliate the confidence and respect of all who are acquainted with him. By his own energies he had raised himself from the abject condition of a slave to that of a respectable, and useful citizen.”

Source: Excerpt from Daniel E. Meaders *Kidnappers in Philadelphia. Isaac Hoppers Tales of Oppression 1780-1843* 2nd Edition. Africana Homestead Legacy Publishers (Cherry Hill, New Jersey, 2009), pages 173-174.

Appendix

Item Number 4

Full indenture from the Estate of Henry Pratt to Solomon Clarkson for the structures and lot of land located 186' 3" west of 6th Street on the north side of Lombard Street. The description of the purchase is located at the bottom of page 1 and the top of page 2. Source: Philadelphia Department of Public Records, book number 39, page 570.

Washington and Clarkson doth the above written and endorsed Deed Bell to be his
act and deed and deliver the same as such might be Required according to Law
With my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid

Pete May
G. B.
Albemarle

Recorded June 13 the 1842.

James Dundas Atal. This Indenture Made the Sixty first day of May
in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and
Solomon Clarkson ^{Do} Sixty two Between James Dundas Doctor Benjamin Hugler
Henry Pratt & John James D. Pratt Richard S. Smith and Andrew D. Cash Executors
named in the Last Will and Testament of Henry Pratt late of the city
of Philadelphia in the State of Pennsylvania deceased of this part Solomon
Clarkson of the said City Factor of the other part Whereas the said Henry Pratt
late departed this life leaving first made and published his Last Will and
Testament in writing dated the fourth day of July anno Domini One thousand
Eight hundred and thirty seven duly proved and cogent at Philadelphia
before me he appears to the said James Dundas, Benjamin Hugler, Henry Pratt
John James D. Pratt, Richard S. Smith, and Andrew D. Cash Executors
and their and their said attorney and executors his said Executrix
and the Survivors and Survivor of them and the heirs and affines of the
Survivor to sell and convey all or any part of his Real estate not specifically
conveyed otherwise absolutely or by Simple or in gross tenement or buildings
designed for the interest of his Estate and to make execute and deliver the
necessary deeds Conveyances and releases and other assurances as the law
thereby to vest the same and the absolute fee Simple and in her or them
in the purchaser or purchasers thereof his her or their said executors without
any liability on the part of the purchaser or purchasers as to the application
misapplication or non application of the proceeds of Sale and fees and
clear of and from all liens or charge or amount of the Expenses or Annuites
therein given and required and fees and disbursements for all and
every the trusts herein before recited made and declared as in expressly
the said Last Will and Testament aforesaid thereto being had
will more fully and at large appear Now this Indenture witnesseth that
the said James Dundas Benjamin Hugler Henry Pratt & John James D.
Pratt Richard S. Smith and Andrew D. Cash Executors aforesaid for and
in consideration of the sum of Sixteen Hundred Dollars lawful money
to them in hand paid by the said Solomon Clarkson either before the sealing
and delivery hereof the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged I have
granted bargained sold alway and reserved and by these presents
in pursuance and execution of the power and authority in the said Last
Will and Testament contained in these papers and in them
set forth and by force and virtue thereof Do grant bargain sell release and
convey unto the said Solomon Clarkson his heirs and affines All the
estate interest or tenement and lot or plots of ground situate on the
North Side of Lombard Street at the distance of One hundred and
eighty Six feet three inches Westward from the East Side of Delaware

Sixte Street in the said City Containing in front a breadth on the said Lombard
 Street Sixteen feet including on the Eastward side thereof the Easternmost Building
 of a mally two feet six inches in width leading into and from the said Lombard
 Street laid out for the mutual use and accommodation of the neighbors and to
 hereby granted and the adjoining奴奴age and lot in the West and extending
 in length or depth Matthew's of that width passing through the center of the奴奴age
 House and wall about estate and dug partly in the lot hereby granted and
 partly in the adjoining lot to the East and for their mutual use and accom-
 modation Sixty four feet bounded Northward by ground formerly of the said Henry
 Pratt do & Southward by the said Lombard Street and Eastern said Street and
 by other奴奴ages and lots belonging to the estate of the said Henry Pratt deceased
 Being part and parcel of a certain larger lot of ground before The President Directors
 and Company of the Bank of Pennsylvania by Indenture bearing date the
 fourteenth day of July anno Domini One thousand eight hundred and one
 Recorded in said Book C. I. No 10 pa 583 granted and Conveyed unto the
 said Henry Pratt in fee as by Reference thereto will fully appear) Together
 with the freehold liberty and property of the said property well at all
 times henceforward common with the owners tenants and Occupiers of the ad-
 joining奴奴age and lot on the East Subject to the payment of a moiety
 of the expense of keeping the same in good and sufficient order and repair
 And Together with the freehold liberty and property of the said
 two feet six inches wide ally in common with the owners tenants and
 Occupiers of the adjoining奴奴age and lot on the West at all times
 hereafter forever And Together also with all and Singular other the
 buildings improvements ways Streets alleys passages Water Water Courses lights
 liberties fountains headments and appurtenances whatsoever unto the
 hereby granted premises belonging or in any wise appertaining and the
 tenures and Ternures and rents issues and profits thereof and all the estate
 right title interest property claim and demand whatsoever which was of him
 the said Henry Pratt at and immediately prior to the time of his decease and
 now is of them the said parties of the first part - heirs either at law or in
 equity or otherwise however of and out of the same and every part and
 parcel thereof to have and to hold the said奴奴age in tenement and lot
 in fee of ground above described hereditaments and premises hereby granted
 in manner and in tenor to be with the appurtenances unto the said
 Solomon Clarkson his heirs and assigns to and for the only purpose and beh
 of the said Solomon Clarkson his heirs and assigns forever free and clear of and
 from all hindrance or charge on account of the legacy or annuity given and
 bequeathed by the Will of the said Henry Pratt deceased and paid and
 discharged from all and every the trust herein created and done and made
 the said James Deans Benjamin Hughe Pratt M. Keen James D. Pratt
 Richard S. Smith and Andrew D. Cash to severally but not jointly
 them for the other or for the act or acts of the other but sole for his own
 acts only covenant promise grant and agree to and with the said Solomon
 Clarkson his heirs and assigns by these presents that they the said James Deans
 Benjamin Hughe Pratt M. Keen James D. Pratt Richard S. Smith
 and Andrew D. Cash have not nor have either of them done committed
 or willingly or unwillingly suffered to be done or committed any act

matter or thing whatsoever whereby the premises aforesaid or any part thereof is, are or shall or may be in part or whole charged or encumbered in little charge or estate or otherwise however In witness whereof the said parties have interchangably set their hands and seals hereunto And the day and year first above written sealed and delivered in the presence of us } James D Pratt James Dundas
 P Christian } Richd S Smith Benj Hugler
 Richard Smithurst } A D Cash H Pratt W Keaw

Received the day of the state of the above written Indenture of the above named Persons Clarkson the sum of Fifteen hundred Dollars being the full sum, in ready money above mentioned
 Witnessed at beginning } James D Pratt James Dundas
 P Christian } Richd S Smith Benj Hugler
 Richard Smithurst } A D Cash H Pratt W Keaw

The Sixth day of June AD 1842 Before me an Alderman of the city of Philadelphia and the above named James Dundas Benjamin Hugler Henry Pratt & Keaw James D Pratt Richard S Smith and Andrew D Cash and in due form of law acknowledged the above Indenture to be their act and deed and doth the same as such to be Received Noting my hand and Seal the day and year aforesaid

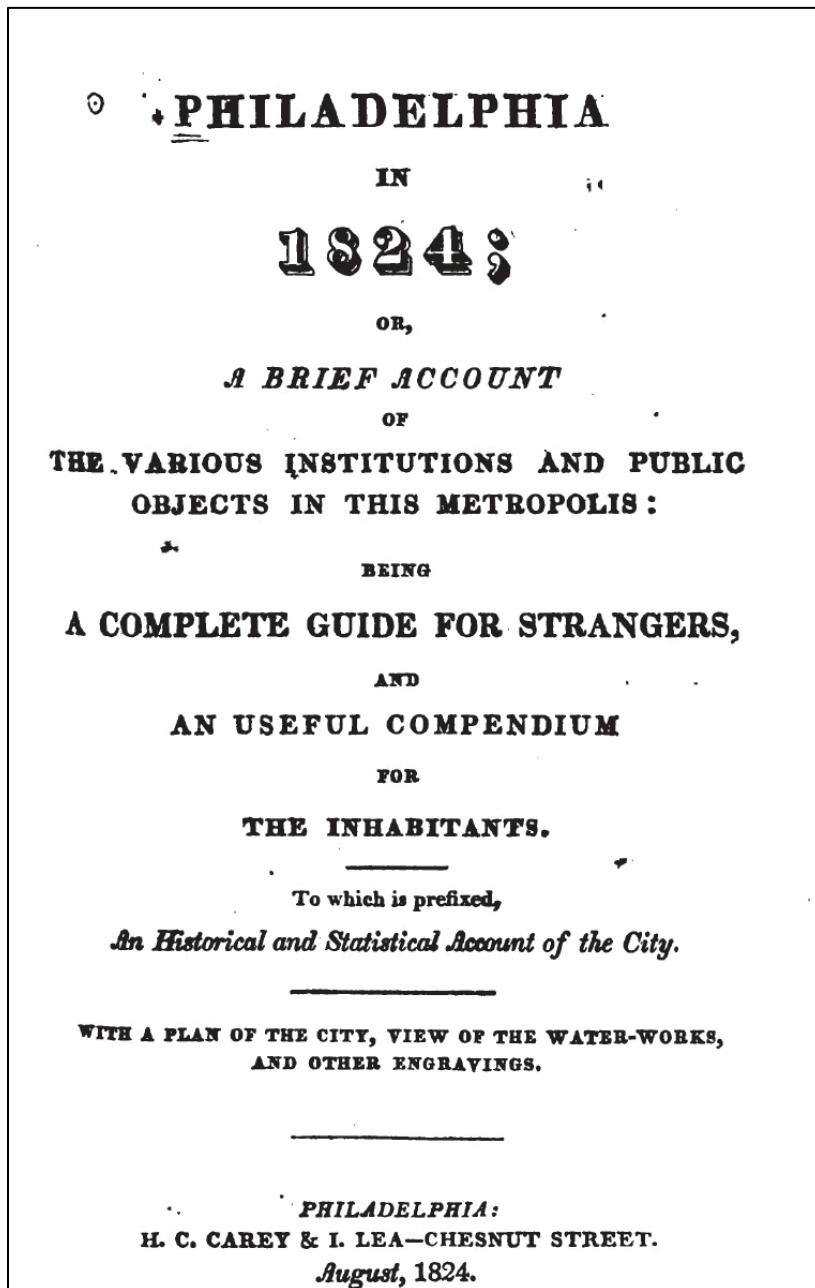
Peter d. 1 June 13th 1842

P Christian a

Item Number 5

Philadelphia in 1824; or, A Brief Account of the Various Institutions and Public Objects in this Metropolis etc (Philadelphia: H.C. Carey & I. Lea, Chestnut Street, August, 1924;

What follows is an excerpt including the title page and pages 131-132, which refer to Solomon Clarkson as master of a boy's school.



SCHOOLS.

131

received from the executors of Mr. Ludwick the amount of his bequest.

Since the commencement of the establishment, 5414 children have been admitted into the schools. During the year 1823, there were admitted 231 boys and 171 girls, discharged during the same period 210 boys and 156 girls. The number of scholars, on the 1st of January, 1824, was 252 boys and 172 girls. The managers have recently established a department for the instruction of girls in the plaiting of straw and the manufacture of straw bonnets and trimmings, from which very favourable results may be anticipated. The capital stock and real estate of the institution amount in value to \$30,671 83 cts., which yields an income of \$1571 40 cts., besides which an annual sum is paid by each member, which amounted to \$400 in 1823. The salaries to teachers, in 1823, were \$1400, and the other expenses \$292 86 cts.

The schools are kept in a house erected for the purpose in Walnut street, between Sixth and Seventh streets. The building is 30 feet front, and 80 deep.

The officers for 1824 are—Jonathan Fell, *President*; Philip Garrett, *Vice-President*; Richard Price, *Treasurer*; James C. Biddle, *Secretary*; and eighteen managers.

Adelphi School.

An institution under this name is situated in Gaskill street. It is designed exclusively for the instruction of coloured boys, of whom about 80 usually attend the school. It is supported by members of the society of Friends, and is under the direction of a board of twelve managers.

Free School for the Education of Negro Children,

Under the direction of “The Associates of the late Rev. Dr. Bray,” in England.

Master of the boys’ school, Solomon Clarkson; mistress of the girls’ school, Mrs. Ruth Hand.

This charity was originally founded by Dr. Bray, who in 1696 was appointed by the bishop of London his commissary in Maryland, and was the projector and promoter of many very important schemes for the propagation of Christianity, and the improvement of the condition of the African race.

A large bequest was made to Dr. Bray and his associates, by Mr. D’Alone, the private secretary of King William, “to-

wards erecting a capital fund or stock for converting the negroes in the British plantations," out of the interest of which a stipend was paid for several years, to support a catechist to teach the negroes in Georgia.

Unexpected and almost insuperable obstacles to the execution of Mr. D'Alone's pious and benevolent plan, induced the associates, in 1760, to turn their attention to the instruction of negro children, for which purpose schools were opened in different parts of America; and now, besides occasional assistance rendered in some of the West India islands, and to the settlement at Sierra Leone, they have on their regular establishment three schools in Nova Scotia, besides the one established here.

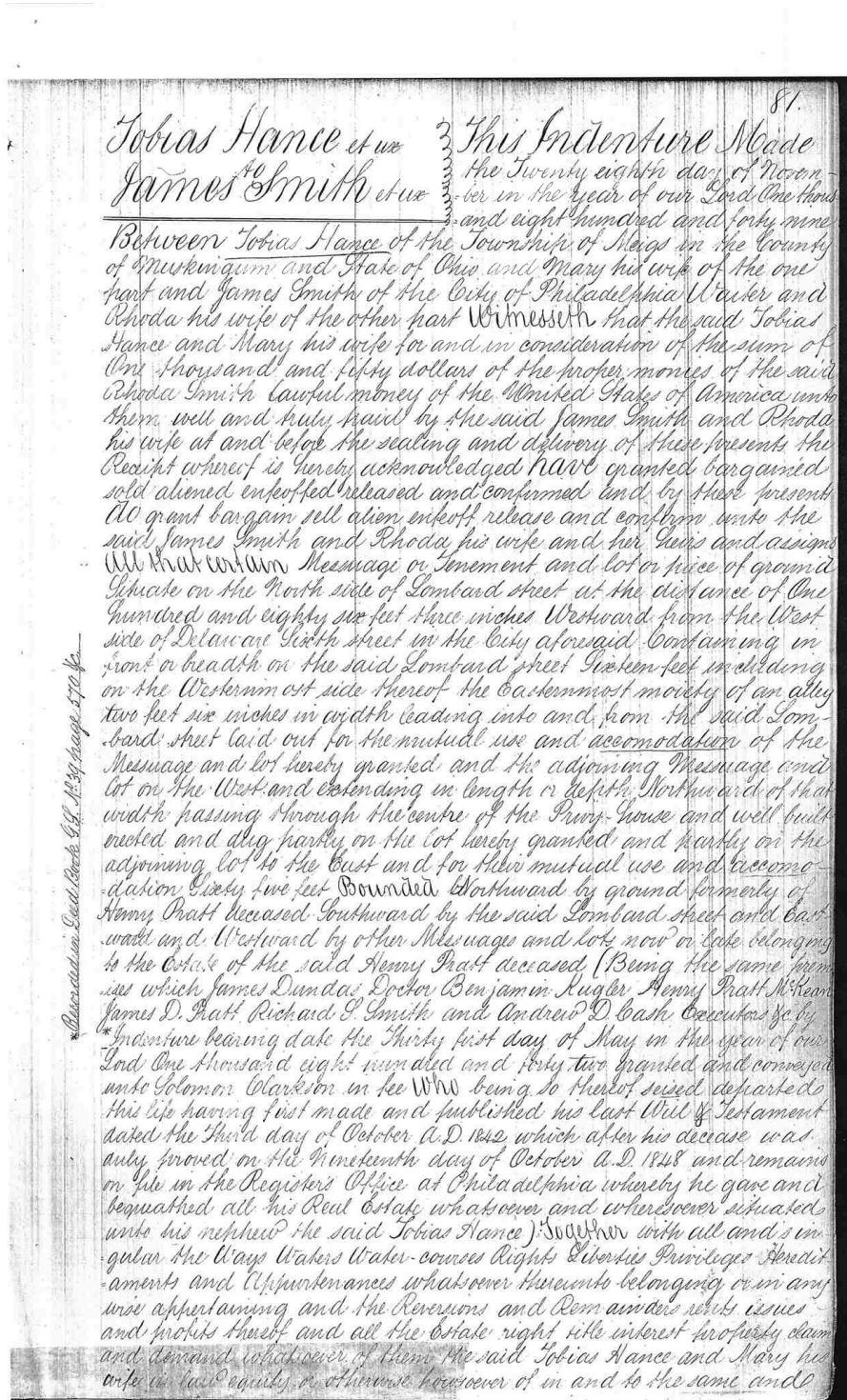
The expenses of this school are defrayed with the rents reserved out of a lot of ground in this city, which was purchased in 1774, with the benefactions of the Rev. Mr. Upcher, of Sudbury, in Suffolk, the income of which was appropriated by him "to the education of negroes."

The present trustees of the associates are, Louis Hayes Petel, Esq., Rev. Charles Parr Burney, Joshua Watson, Esq., Samuel Waring, Esq., Rev. Samuel Wix, and Mr. Sharon Turner; and the school and estates here are under the immediate superintendence of their attorneys, William Meredith, Esq., James S. Smith, Esq., and Mr. Thomas Hale, acting with the advice of the Rt. Rev. Bishop White, who for many years had them in his charge.

The institutions of which a brief account is here given, are the principal establishments for the support of charity schools. Numerous others, however, exist, more limited in their sphere of operations, but producing in their combined result the happiest effect upon the character of the population. Among these may be mentioned the Aimwell School Society, established in 1796, for the free instruction of female children, by members of the society of Friends; the Philadelphia Union Society, instituted in 1804, for similar purposes, by ladies, members of the Presbyterian Church; the free schools of the United Episcopal Churches, and of the German Lutherans and Calvinists. There is also a free school annexed to the University of Pennsylvania, at which, in 1823, 88 boys and 30 girls were taught the elements of knowledge.

Item Number 6

Full indenture of sale of the house by Tobias Hance, heir of Solomon Clarkson, to James Smith
Source: Philadelphia Department of Public Records, book number 37, page 81.



every part thereof to have and to hold the said Messuage or
Tenement and lot or piece of ground above described Hereditaments
and Premises hereby granted or mentioned and intended so to be
with the Appurtenances unto the said James Smith and Rhoda
his wife his and assigns & and for the only proper use and
behalf of the said James Smith and Rhoda his wife and her heirs
and assigns for ever And the said Tobias Hance for himself his heirs
~~executors and administrators~~ doth by these presents covenant grant and
agree to and with the said James Smith and Rhoda his wife and her
heirs and assigns that he the said Tobias Hance and his heirs all
and singular the hereditaments and premises herein above described
and granted or mentioned and intended so to be with the Appur-
tenances unto the said James Smith and Rhoda his wife and her
heirs and assigns against himself the said Tobias Hance and his
heirs and against all and every other Person or Persons whomsoever
lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof or
from or under him them or any of them shall and will warrant
and forever defend In Witness whereof the said parties to these
presents have hereunto interchangably set their hands and seals
Dated the day and year first above written

Sealed and Delivered

in the presence of us

Rich. Gillwell

Marka Gillwell

Tobias Hance



Mary X Hance
mark



Received the day of the date of the above Indenture of the above
named Rhoda Smith the sum of One thousand and fifty
dollars being the consideration money above mentioned in full
Witness at Signing

Rich. Gillwell

Marka Gillwell

Tobias Hance

State of Ohio County of Muskingum ss.

On the Twenty eighth day of November anno
Domini 1819 before me Richard Gillwell President Judge of the Court
of Common Pleas of said County personally appeared the above named
Tobias Hance and Mary his wife and in due form of law acknowl-
edged the above Indenture to be their act and deed and desired the
same might be Recorded as such and the said Mary being of full
age and separate and apart from her said husband by me thereon
privately examined and the full contents of the above Deed being
by me first made known unto her aid thereupon declare and say
that she did voluntarily and of her own free will and accord sign
seal and as her act and deed deliver the above written Indenture Deed
or Conveyance without any coercion or compulsion of her said husband
Witness my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid.

State of Ohio

County of Muskingum ss.

Rich. Gillwell



I. Anthony Wilkins Clerk of the Court
of Common Pleas in and for said County hereby certify that Richard
Gillwell Esq before whom the acknowledgment of the within Deed or
Conveyance is taken now is and at the time of the making where-

83.

was President Judge of the said Court duly commissioned and qualified as such to whose Official Acts full faith and credit ought to be given.



In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and
the seal of the said Court this twenty eighth day of November
in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and forty nine (1849).

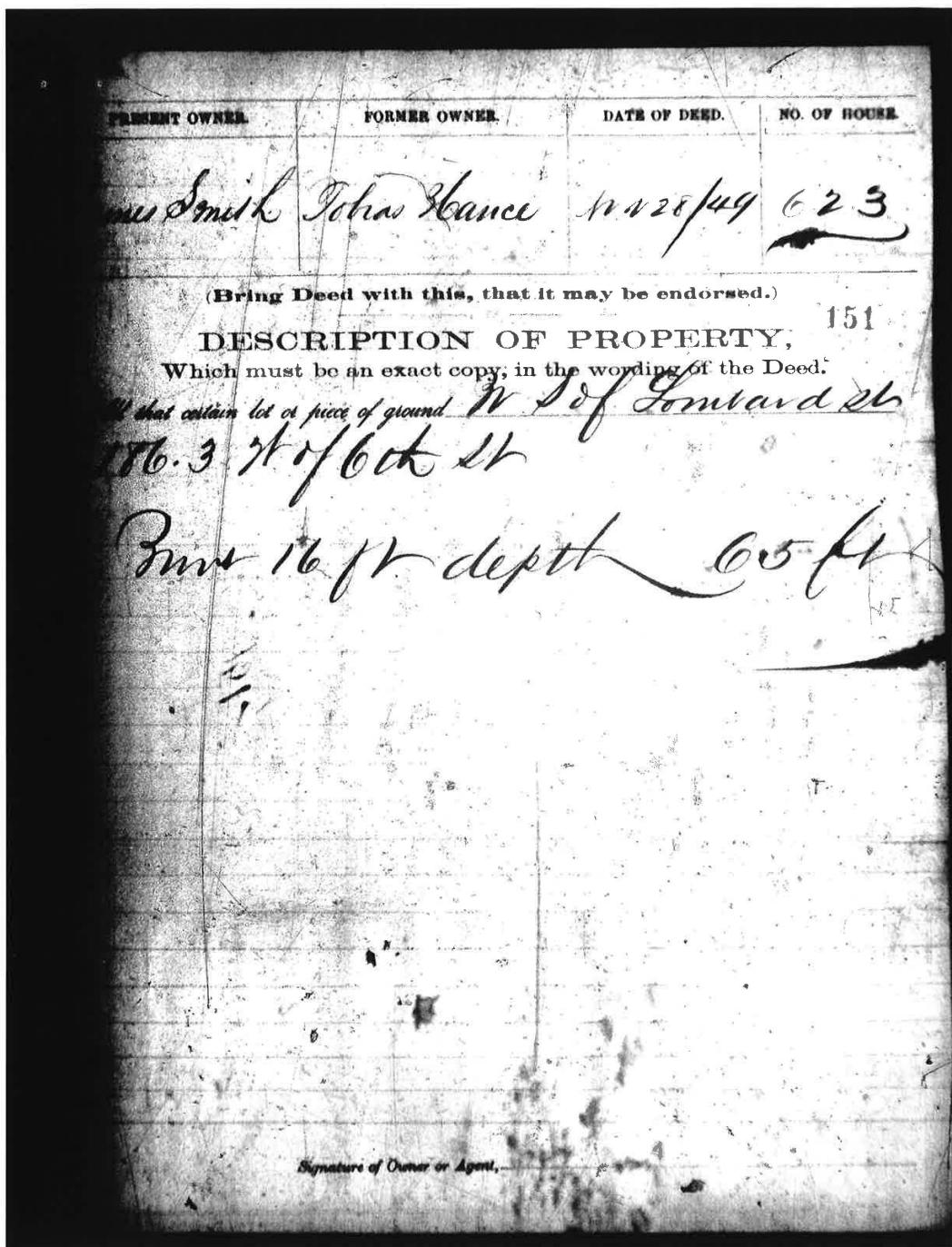
Anthony Wilkins Clerk

as aforesaid.

* Recorded January 14th 1850.

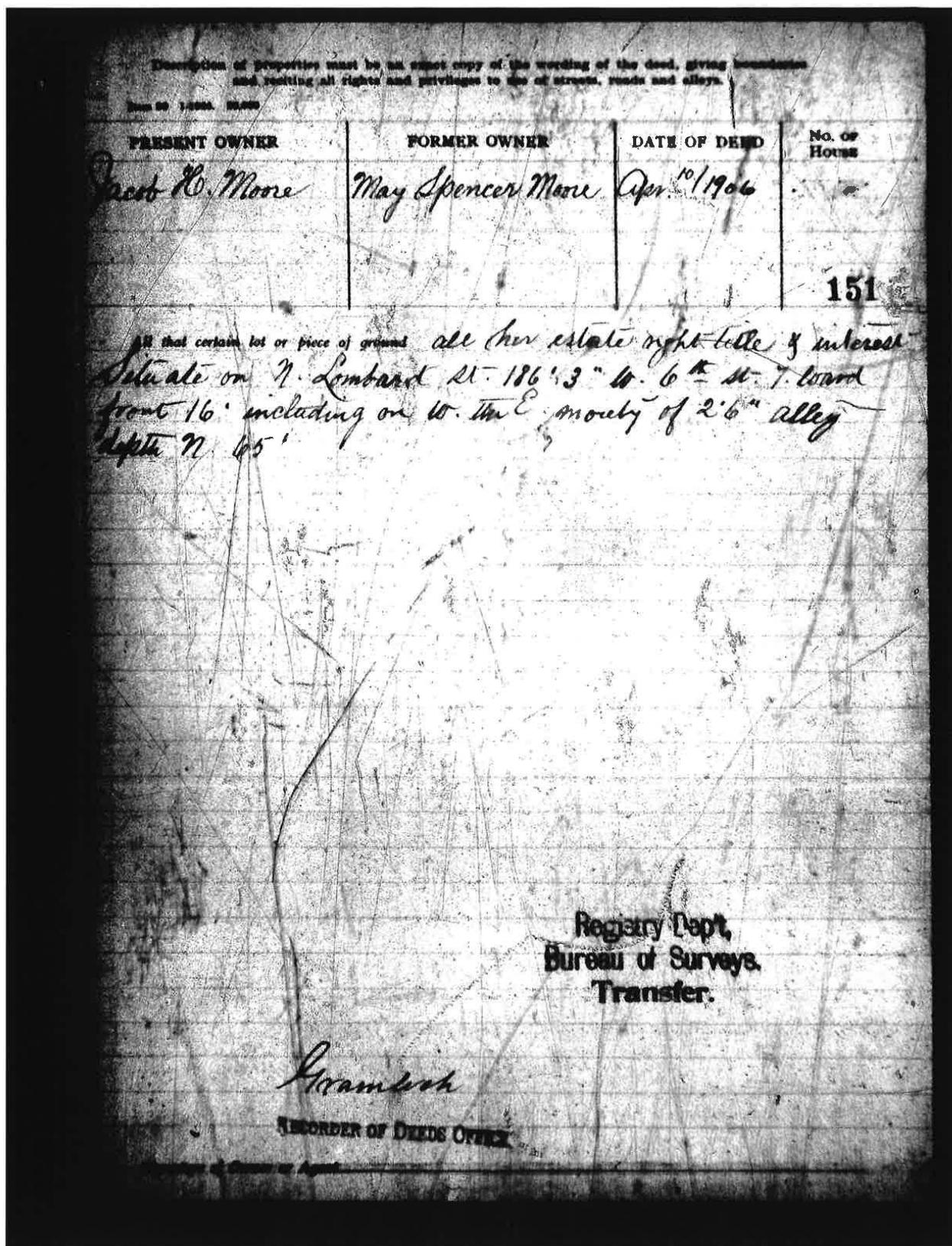
Item Number 7

Trail of deeds to the house at 623 Lombard Street, from the time of Tobias Hance until its purchase by Lombard-Addison Way, Inc., in 1988 from the Octavia Hill Association. Each of the deeds here records the address of the house as 623 Lombard Street, located 186 feet 3 inches west of 6th Street.

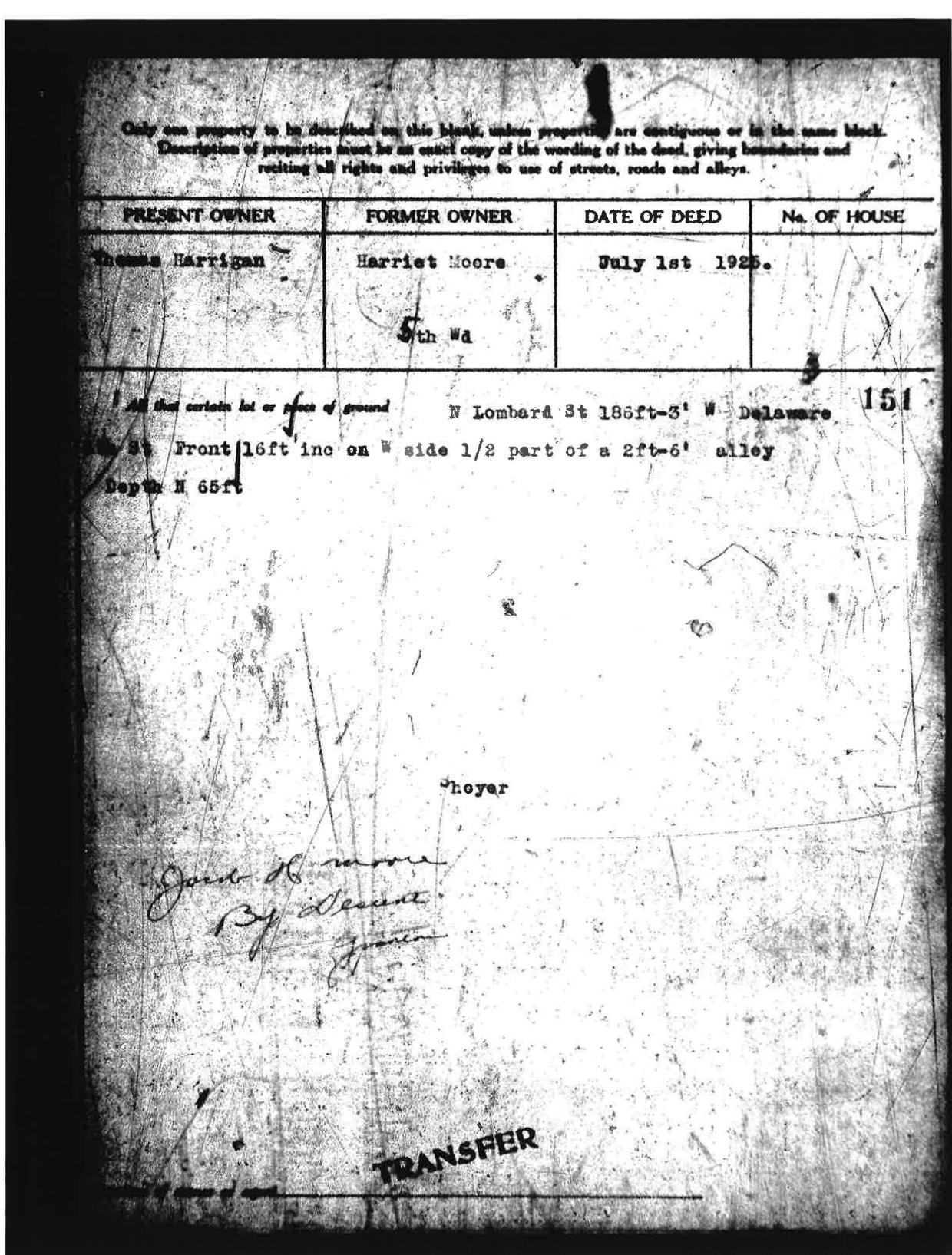


Appendix

Description of property must be an exact copy of the wording of the deed, giving boundaries and reserving all rights and privileges to use of streets, roads and alleys.			
PRESIDENT OWNER	PREDECESSOR OWNER	DATE OF DEED	NO. OF HOUSE
Jacob H. Moore	Francis C. Adler Ex't ana Trustee Will Ellen C. Moore Da's All Right Title Int	Aug 21st	151
All that certain lot or piece of ground N. Lombard st 186 3' W. Delaware Sixth st			
Front 16' Inclay on W. ad the E. 2' 6" alleys Depth N. 65'			
James Smith To By descent John Long Smith - now dec'd Mrs W. Smith To W. Hall Ellen to Moore Jacob H. Moore			
Corrections in red ink 10/2/1905 J.S. L. Maudan			
Registry Room Bureau of Surveys Transfer			
Signature of Owner or Agent		Schantz	



Appendix



A House with History

Only one property to be described on this Block, unless properties are contiguous or in the same Block.
Description of properties must be an exact copy of the wording of the deed, giving boundaries
and reserving all rights and privileges to use of streets, roads and alleys.

PRESENT OWNER	FORMER OWNER	DATE OF DEED	No. OF HOUSE
Gifford P. Allen 3rd & Thomas P. Will	Thomas B. Harrigan & Casey C. his wife	Feb. 20th 1928.	
	7th Wd		

All that certain lot or piece of ground 151
Front 16ft
Depth N 65ft No 623
N Lombard St 186ft-3' W 6th St

Shoyer

TRANSFER

Appendix

Only one property to be described on this blank, unless properties are contiguous or in the same block.
Description of property must be an exact copy of the wording of the deed, giving boundaries
and reserving all rights and privileges to use of streets, roads and alleys.

PRESENT OWNER	FORMER OWNER	DATE OF DEED	No. OF HOUSE
Samuel Cybrosky Benjamin Cybrosky	Clifford P Allen Son & Margaret E his wife Frank P. Will & Edna his wife	July 2nd 1900	

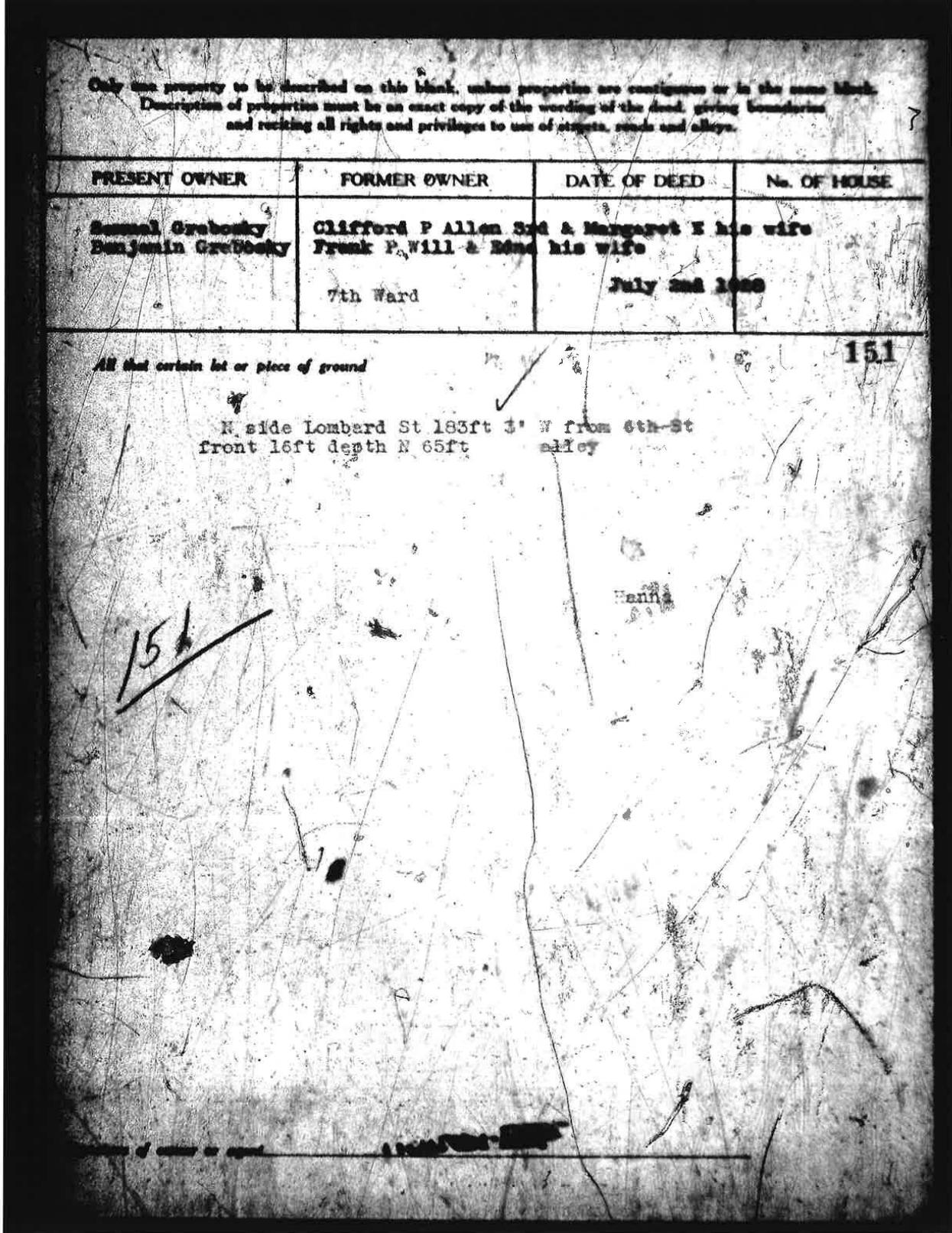
7th Ward

July 2nd 1900

All that certain lot or piece of ground

151

N side Lombard St 183ft 3' W from 6th-St
front 16ft depth N 65ft



Only one property to be described on this blank, unless properties are contiguous or in the same block. Description of property must be an exact copy of the wording of the deed, giving boundaries and reciting all rights and privileges to use of streets, roads and alleys.			
PRESENT OWNER	FORMER OWNER	DATE OF DEED	NO. OF HOUSE
Mr. Hiltner	Samuel Gately and Samie Gately his wife and Stephens Gately and Anna Gately his wife	May 3-1933	623 Lombard St 5th Ward
Widow			

All that certain lot or piece of ground
151
N. side Lombard St 186' 3" W. of 6th St
Front 16' including on Westward side the easement
width of 2' 6" into alley
Depth N. 65

J. L. S.

TRANSFER

Appendix

BUREAU OF ENGINEERING, SURVEYS AND ZONING

Only one property to be described on this blank, unless properties are contiguous or in the same block.
Description of property must be an exact copy of the wording of the deed, giving boundaries
and reserving all rights and privileges to use of streets, roads and alleys.

PRESENT OWNER	FORMER OWNER	DATE OF DEED	No. or House
✓ Israel Flitter	Aaron Ferthoy & Fannie Flitter his wife ✓ Morris Flitter & Sarah his wife ✓ Rae Flitter ✓ Louis Flitter & Bebbie his wife ✓ Sophie Flitter ✓ Charles Flitter ✓ Dora Flitter ✓ Clara Flitter ✓ Bernard Flitter		
	All that certain lot or piece of ground	May 14th 1938	5th Ward
			100
			151

1. a of Lombard St 186' 3" W. of 6th st

Crt 16' including the West side the East moiety of an alley 2' 6". into
and from Lombard St

D. N. thru the mid of the privy wall and dug partly on the adjoining lot
to the E. 65'

bounded N. by ground of Henry Fatt S. by Lombard St E. and W. by other
Messuages and lot belonging to the Estate of Henry Fatt

623 Lombard St

1. a of Lombard St 170' 3" W. of 6th st

Crt 16' including on the E. s of the West moiety or 1/2 part of a 2' 6".
W.A.

1. M. 65' the W. side thru the mid of the privy wall and partly on the lot
to the West

bounded N. by ground of Henry Fatt E. by ground of Benjamin Wilkins S. by
Lombard St W. by ground of Solomon Clarkson

J. Feighery

Ida Flitter
by will
Gerald Gantos

Witnessed at Ontario on Aug 1st

TRANSFER

BUREAU OF ENGINEERING, SURVEYS AND SURVEYORS

Only one property to be described on this blank, unless properties are contiguous or in the same block.
Description of properties must be an exact copy of the wording of the deed, giving boundaries
and reciting all rights and privileges to use of streets, roads and alleys.

PRESENT OWNER	FORMER OWNER	DATE OF RECORD	No. or Name
Sara Flitter wife of Israel & Dora Flitter	Israel Flitter & Sara his wife	September 2nd 1938	5th Ward

All that certain lot or piece of ground

100

N. s of Lombard St 186' 3" W. of 6th st

151

frt 16' and on the W. side the E. most moiety of a 2' 6".W.A. into and from Lombard St and lot on West or Depth N. thru the mid of privy house and well built and dug partly on the adjoining lot to the East 65'

Bounded N. by ground of Henry Pratt S. by Lombard St E. and W. by other messuage and lot now belonging to the Estate of Henry Pratt

623 Lombard St

N. s of Lombard St 170' 3" W. of 6th st

frt 16' and on the East side of the W. moiety or 1/2 part of a 2' 6".W.A.

E. N. 65' the W. side thru the mid of the privy on the this lot and lot to the west

Bounded N. by ground of Henry Pratt E. by ground of Benjamin Wilkins S. by Lombard St W. by ground of Solomon Clarksen

621 Lombard St

J. Feighery

Witness of Owner or Agent

TRANSFER

Appendix

<p>Only one property to be described on this blank, unless properties are contiguous or in the same block. Description of properties must be an exact copy of the wording of the deed, giving boundaries and reciting all rights and privileges to use of streets, roads and alleys.</p>			
PRESENT OWNER	FORMER OWNER	DATE OF DEED	NO. OF HOUSE
Octavia Hill Assoc inc.	Sara Flitter Isabel her lbd Sara Flitter	5wds Feb 2 1942	
<small>ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER</small> 613 Lombard			
<small>ALL THAT CERTAIN LOT OR PIECE OF GROUND</small> N. E. Lombard St. 186' 3" w of 6 st. 100 Front 16' (on E. moiety of a 2 1/2 acre) 151 wts + from Lombard Depth thru Ctr privy house + wice 65' Bd N. by sd H. Pratt S by Lombard E + w by eas of H. Pratt 623 Lombard another N. E. Lombard St. 170' 3" w of 6 st. Dit 16' (incl on E. moiety of a 2 1/2 acre) 6 1/2 65' thru Ctr privy Bd N. by sd H. Pratt E by sd B. Wicks S. by Lombard W by sd Solomon Clarkson 621 Lombard			
<small>TRANSFER</small> Signature of Owner or Agent: _____			

DEPARTMENT OF RECORDS

FHS 1087 - 291

FROM	DATE
Octavia Helle Lee	5-17-88
TO	
Lonhard Addison May Lee	Way
PLATE	LOT NO.
359	151

THE DEED COVERING THIS PROPERTY CONTAINED OTHERS,
AND THE FULL DESCRIPTION OF THIS LOT
MAY BE READ BY VIEWING

PLATE	LOT NO.
359	51

REMARKS

82.74

DEED CROSS REFERENCE FOR REGISTRY

Item Number 8

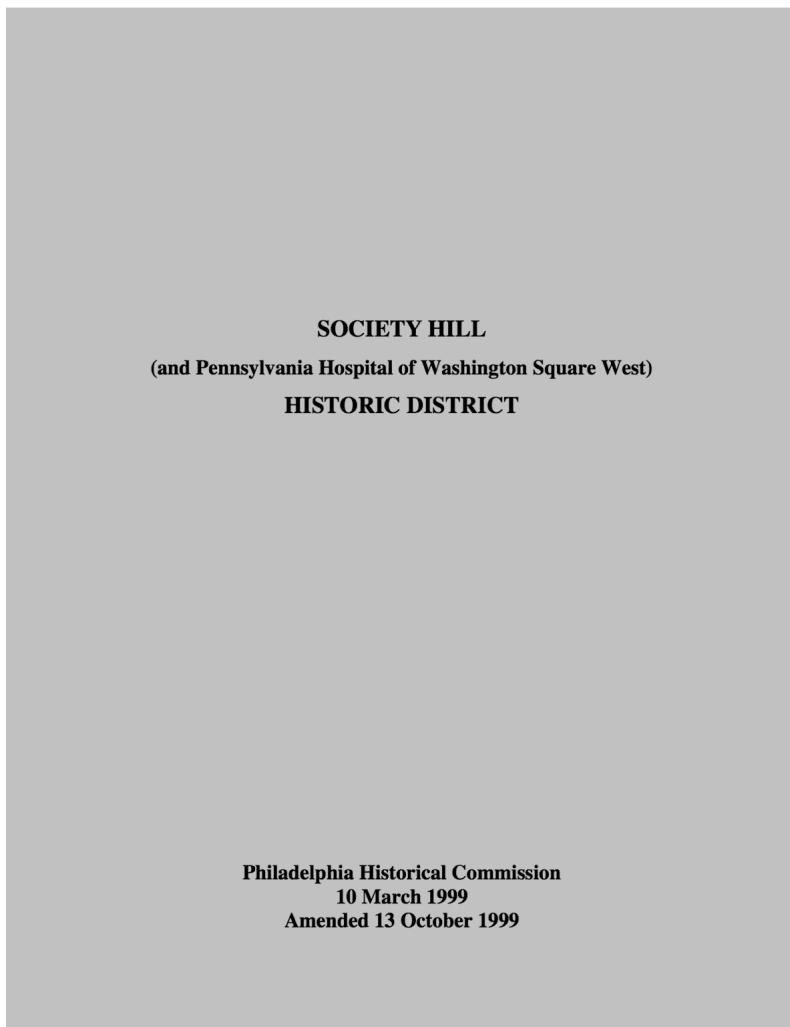
Dr. Florence Siebert at the Phipps Institute ca. 1934 (Credit- courtesy of the collections of the University of Pennsylvania Archives)



Item Number 9

**“Society Hill (and Pennsylvania Hospital of Washington Square West) Historic District,”
Philadelphia Historical Commission, 10 March 1999, Amended 13 October 1999**

This document provides a block-by-block description of the area of interest. The “Lombard Street—600 Block” page includes a description of the ten houses between 611 and 629 Lombard Street. It states that they were built in 1838 for Henry Pratt and that they were later acquired by the Octavia hill Association between 1911 and 1942.



Appendix

LOMBARD STREET - 600 Block

Paving: asphalt
granite
Sidewalks: brick

Curbs: concrete and
Light fixtures: Franklin

601-05 (a.k.a. 420-24 S. 6th Street) Two, 2-story, red brick, contemporary duplexes. Four recessed entrances with decorative metal gates; two balconies centered at 2nd floor; tripartite windows 1st floor with gates on 2nd; gable roofs.

6th Street and rear elevations: brick with a 5-foot brick wall extending across rear with wooden gates leading to enclosed garden; parking lot extends along 6th Street behind the wall.

Built 1981 by The Klett Organization, architects, Pine Street Associates, developers. RDA. Contributing.

607 3-story, 3-bay, red brick, Greek Revival house. Rectangular wood door surround; single-leaf 6-panel door; 3-light transom; double-hung 6/6 sash on all floors; storm sash; brick sill 1st floor, stone lintels and sills 2nd and 3rd; 2-panel shutters 1st floor; modillioned box cornice; sloped roof.

East elevation: stucco.

Built c. 1830. Altered c. 1966 by Montgomery, Bishop & Arnold, architects, new sash, ground floor garage opening bricked in, new door, transom and sash. Contributing.

609 & Rear 3-story, 3-bay, red brick, vernacular house. A wide arch-head courtyard entrance; rectangular wood door surround; single-leaf 6-panel door; 3-light transom; double-hung 6/6 sash on all floors; brick sills; marble stringcourse 2nd and 3rd floors; 3-panel shutters 1st floor; aluminum covered sloped roof.

New façade c. 1966 by Montgomery, Bishop, and Arnold, architects. Contributing.

611-29 Ten, 3-story, 2-bay, red brick vernacular houses. Rectangular wood door surround; single-leaf 6-panel door; 3-light transom; double-hung 6/6 sash on all floors; wood sills; 3-panel shutters 1st floor; marble stringcourse 2nd and 3rd floors; aluminum covered cornice; arched alleyway entrance at party wall; 611: no shutters.

Addison Street elevation: stucco and brick with double-hung 6/6 sash on all floors; cinder block and brick wall, approximately 3 feet high.

Built between 1801-38 for Henry Pratt, Esquire. Acquired by the Octavia Hill Association between 1911-43. Alterations c. 1966 by Montgomery, Bishop & Arnold, architects; 619: July 1995, rear deck. Contributing.

631-43 (a.k.a. 423-27 S. 7th Street) "Lombard Street Homes" Seven, 3-story, 2-bay, tan brick, contemporary houses; 639 only 2 stories. Recessed entrances set at right angles to street; 3-part casement windows 1st and 3rd floors; balcony with sliding glass patio doors 2nd floor; brick bays extend the vertical height of the buildings with 3-story windows at either side of party wall; gable standing seam metal roof; metal security gates; 637-41: no security gates.

Built 1969 by Hassinger & Schwam, architects. Contributing.

Item Number 10

Philadelphia Register of Historic Places

[Designating houses on 600 block of Lombard Street]

This document records the individual historic designation of the house at 623 Lombard Street along with its neighbors, 611, 613, 615, 617, 619, 621, 625, 627, and 629 in the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places as of 12/31/1984, and the inclusion of houses west of 629 in the Society Hill Historic District as of 3/10/1999.

The screenshot shows the official website of the City of Philadelphia's Register of Historic Places. The header includes the date '1/18/2018' and the title 'City of Philadelphia: Philadelphia Register of Historic Places'. Navigation links for 'City of Philadelphia', 'Mayor's Office', 'City Council', 'Courts', 'District Attorney', and 'Sheriff' are present. Below the header are links for 'Topics', 'Businesses', 'Residents', 'Visitors', 'Government', and a search button labeled 'GO'. A horizontal menu bar features 'Historic Register' (which is highlighted in yellow), 'Public Meetings', 'Design Review', and 'Designation'. The main content area displays the 'Philadelphia Register of Historic Places' page. On the left, a sidebar lists categories: 'Historic Register' (with a link to 'Philadelphia Register of Historic Places'), 'Philadelphia Historic Districts', 'Plaque Program', and 'The National Register'. The central text discusses the Register as a comprehensive inventory of historic resources. It notes that the Historical Commission adds properties to the Register and retains jurisdiction over them even if they change addresses. The text also mentions that the Register is updated regularly and provides contact information for the Historical Commission. At the bottom of the page, there are links for 'Historical', 'Topics', 'People We Serve', 'Government', and 'Contact' sections, along with a footer containing copyright and legal information.

Appendix

Philadelphia Historical Commission Philadelphia Register of Historic Places

As of 8/25/2017

Address	Designation Date1	Designation Date2	District Date	District
312 Lombard St	1/22/1963	5/4/1978	3/10/1999	Society Hill
314 Lombard St	1/22/1963	5/4/1978	3/10/1999	Society Hill
316-18 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
320 Lombard St	1/22/1963	2/2/1978	3/10/1999	Society Hill
322 Lombard St	1/22/1963	2/2/1978	3/10/1999	Society Hill
323 Lombard St	4/30/1957		3/10/1999	Society Hill
324 Lombard St	2/2/1978		3/10/1999	Society Hill
326 Lombard St	4/30/1957	1/22/1963	3/10/1999	Society Hill
328 Lombard St	1/22/1963	2/2/1978	3/10/1999	Society Hill
330 Lombard St	1/22/1963	2/2/1978	3/10/1999	Society Hill
332 Lombard St	1/22/1963		3/10/1999	Society Hill
334-38 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
335 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
401 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
406 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
408 Lombard St	12/31/1984		3/10/1999	Society Hill
410 Lombard St	12/31/1984		3/10/1999	Society Hill
412-24 Lombard St	12/31/1984		3/10/1999	Society Hill
423-39 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
426 Lombard St	12/31/1984		3/10/1999	Society Hill
428 Lombard St	12/31/1984		3/10/1999	Society Hill
430 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
432 Lombard St	12/31/1984		3/10/1999	Society Hill
434 Lombard St	12/31/1984		3/10/1999	Society Hill
501 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
503 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
505 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
507 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
509 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
511 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
513 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
515 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
523-27 Lombard St	12/31/1984		3/10/1999	Society Hill
529 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
531 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
533 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
535 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
537 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
539-41 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
543 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
601-03 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
607 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
609 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
609R Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
611 Lombard St	12/31/1984		3/10/1999	Society Hill
613 Lombard St	12/31/1984		3/10/1999	Society Hill
615 Lombard St	12/31/1984		3/10/1999	Society Hill
617 Lombard St	12/31/1984		3/10/1999	Society Hill
619 Lombard St	12/31/1984		3/10/1999	Society Hill
621 Lombard St	12/31/1984		3/10/1999	Society Hill
623 Lombard St	12/31/1984		3/10/1999	Society Hill
625 Lombard St	12/31/1984		3/10/1999	Society Hill
627 Lombard St	12/31/1984		3/10/1999	Society Hill
629 Lombard St	12/31/1984		3/10/1999	Society Hill

A House with History

Philadelphia Historical Commission Philadelphia Register of Historic Places

As of 8/25/2017

Address	Designation Date1	Designation Date2	District Date	District
631 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
633 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
635 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
637 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
639 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
641 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
643 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
645 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
701 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
709 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
711 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
713 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
715 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
719 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
721 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
723 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
725 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
727 Lombard St			3/10/1999	Society Hill
742 Lombard St	12/31/1984		3/10/1999	Society Hill
802 Lombard St	7/23/1963			
804 Lombard St	7/23/1963			
832-36 Lombard St	7/23/1963	4/5/1984		
842 Lombard St	9/26/1961	7/23/1963		
844-46 Lombard St	9/26/1961	7/23/1963		
935-39 Lombard St	11/24/1959	7/23/1963		
941 Lombard St	11/24/1959	7/23/1963		
943 Lombard St	11/24/1959	7/23/1963		
1037 Lombard St	9/27/1960			
1039 Lombard St	9/27/1960			
1041 Lombard St	9/27/1960			
1043 Lombard St	9/27/1960			
1108 Lombard St	7/23/1963			
1108R Lombard St	7/23/1963			
1200-10 Lombard St	4/5/1984			
1212-28 Lombard St	4/5/1984			
1227 Lombard St				
1233 Lombard St	2/28/1961			
1237 Lombard St	11/24/1959	3/28/1961		
1239 Lombard St	11/24/1959	3/28/1961		
1241 Lombard St	11/24/1959	3/28/1961		
1243 Lombard St	11/24/1959	3/28/1961		
1245 Lombard St	11/24/1959	3/28/1961		
1247 Lombard St	11/24/1959	3/28/1961		
1313 Lombard St	3/28/1961			
1315 Lombard St	3/28/1961			
1317 Lombard St	3/28/1961			
1319 Lombard St	3/28/1961			
1321 Lombard St	3/28/1961			
1323 Lombard St	3/28/1961			
1325 Lombard St	3/28/1961			
1332 Lombard St	10/27/1967			
1334 Lombard St	12/31/1984			
1336 Lombard St	5/14/1975			
1409-11 Lombard St			2/8/1995	Rittenhouse Fitler

Appendix

Item Number 11: News Account of the Lombard Street Riots

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NILES' NATIONAL REGISTER—AUG. 6, 1842—STATES OF THE UNION.

Ontario is at anchor at the navy yard, and two French ships-of-war, the *Brillante* and the *Dunois*, are to remain here during the summer months."

The United States brig *Boxer*, heut. com. *Bullus*, sailed from Port Royal, (Jamaica), 3d inst. for Trinidad de Cuba.

The United States ship *Fairfield*, com. *Morgan*, from Algiers, arrived at Gibraltar 15th ultimo.

PORTSMOUTH NAVAL STATION. A greater number of men-of-war have been built at Portsmouth than any other harbor in the country.

	Guns.	Launched.
Faulkland,	54	1690
Bedford,	32	1696
America,	50	1774
Raleigh,	32	1776
Ranger,	18	1777
America,	74	1782
Crescent,	32	1797
Scammon,	14	1797
Portsmouth,	24	1798
Congress,	36	1799
Washington,	74	1814
Porpoise,	14	1891
Concord,	18	1829
Congress,	44	1841

To these may be added the Alabama, 74, and Santee, 44. These ships are still on the stocks, though built and finished about 15 years.

The America 74 was presented by the Continental Congress to Louis XVI. king of France, and afterwards captured by the British, from whose model many English ships were built. The America, 50, was built by colonel, afterwards governor Langdon, and her original model in mahogany, about three feet long, was a few years since presented by Mrs. Elwyn, his daughter, to the Portsmouth Atheneum, and is now in the cabinet of that institution.

[New York Union.]

STATES OF THE UNION.

PENNSYLVANIA.

RIOT IN PHILADELPHIA. Conflicts between whites and blacks. The well known invertebrate hostility existing between the laboring whites, and colored population of the southern section of the city, again broke the bounds of law on Monday last, and a fearful riot ensued.

It appears that the colored people had determined to make a formal display in celebration of the emancipation of their brethren, in the British West Indies. Without exactly avowing that object, they ostensibly proposed it as a temperance procession. Banners, however, were displayed which sufficiently indicated their object in selecting the day they did for the parade—anwering to the anniversary of the event alluded to. Amongst those banners, one in broad letters was inscribed "Liberty or Death" another "Free Trade and Sailors Rights."

When the procession reached Fourth and Plum streets, in the district of Southwark, it was attacked by a volley of stones, thrown by the whites, and a mischievous boy provoked a fight with one of those in the procession, a lad of about equal size, which was the origin of the whole serious results that followed. The black boy was considerably beaten by the white one, at which a black man struck the white over the head, and then a general fight, in which thousands took part, ensued—and continued during the whole day. The blacks were seriously beaten at the onset, but rallied and thrashed the whites. From Fourth and Plum streets, the crowd of both colors ran to Fifth and Shippen, then up to Sixth and South, fighting with clubs, sticks, stones, brickbats and whatever missiles they could obtain, until they reached the corner of Sixtn and Lombard streets, within the precincts of the city. Some of the blacks took refuge in their own meeting houses in that neighborhood, and their procession having been dispersed, the whites went to work and destroyed houses and property indiscriminately, so that they belonged to or were occupied by blacks.

During the fight of course many were seriously hurt. One white man had his arm broken from a blow inflicted by a huge club in the hands of a black; another white man was stabbed with a knife or dirk in the eye; a black man, named Metcalf, had his right eye laid open by a blow from the weapon of a white, and some fifteen or twenty others more or less seriously injured. The most desperate of the blacks was a deaf and dumb man, who did much mischief, and seriously injured several whites ere he was arrested by the police.

Persons and property were now assailed—many, both whites and blacks were dreadfully injured, before the latter finally gave way and sought safety in flight or concealment. Their domiciles were then attacked and much damage sustained. The police arrived, and attempted to restore order. Some twenty

of the rioters were taken into custody, and desperate and sometimes successful efforts were made by the mob to rescue them. Towards the close of the day the mob were infuriated by the discharge of a musket from a house in Bradford's alley, occupied by colored people, and wounding three young men; the police now found it necessary to protect the negroes by taking them into custody; one, however, was dragged away and dreadfully beaten; and another was battered with sticks and staves, the officers themselves being crushed to the earth by the rush of the mob. Another colored man fled from the fury of the whites to the roof of the house, where he was assailed by a storm of missiles. His cries for mercy for a moment seemed to excite the pity of some, and "shame! shame!" was heard on every side. A rope was then thrown him, and he was drawn into the house, and by the exertions of several gentlemen the mob were prevailed upon to remain without. As the police were taking him away, however, the rioters made a fierce assault upon him, but were repulsed by a portion of their own body; a fight ensued amongst themselves, and the negro escaped and darted into another house, which was afterwards barricaded, and the colored man protected from further injury.

Throughout the evening the tumult was continued, and arrests were occasionally made where the storm of riot was most violent. Six black persons, badly wounded, were brought to the police office, where their wounds were temporarily dressed, and the worst of them taken to the hospital for further attention, where three or four others remained during the night for safety. Mason, supposed to be the person who had fired and wounded some of the crew, was found by officer Wishner, in Lombard, between 7th and 8th sts. He requested him to surrender himself to his keeping—that he would take him out the back way, and thus rescue him from the immense throng of persons that filled the street in front, clamorous for summary vengeance upon his person. To this expostulation of the officer the black resisted, and as force was about to be used to take him, the door was burst open, the accused hurried head foremost out to the crowd, and before his feet struck the pavement, a hundred clubs and other missiles were leveled at his person. The blows were heard to fall fast and heavy upon him, and the blood flew in every direction. He could make no resistance, and after a few minutes beating, he was dragged along the street by the head and shoulders, covered with blood, and to all appearance dead. The crowd followed after in an immense body, hooting and hurrying in exultation. He was brought by the officers to the police, where, after dressing his wounds and administering stimulants, he so far recovered as to be able to be removed to the hospital. His head and whole person are dreadfully cut and bruised, and his life is in a critical situation.

At about 9 o'clock, suddenly, and without an intimation that the building had been entered, a large four story edifice in Lombard street, near Seventh, known as "Smith's Hall," newly erected by a wealthy colored man named Smith, was discovered to be on fire. The firemen hurried to the spot, but their efforts were confined to the saving of buildings surrounding it, and in less than a half hour the walls fell, crushing a small two story brick house next door, to the east, and knocking out its walls. This hall, it was understood, was a substitute for "Pennsylvania Hall," destroyed several years ago, and supposed to be devoted to the same purpose—the discussion of abolition questions. It was entirely destroyed in less than an hour—thousands of persons standing looking at the destruction.

Before this fire had been subdued, another was discovered issuing from the colored Presbyterian church, in St. Mary street, which had been quietly entered and fired. This building was also destroyed.

After midnight the police were left in quiet possession of the field.

Next morning the excitement burst out anew, and extended to the Schuylkill, colliers, laborers, idlers, and boys crowded every corner; most of them Irishmen armed with shillelahs and clubs. Two black men exhibited themselves, which was the signal for an attack. Both were set upon by the mob in the most furious manner, and barely escaped with their lives. They were horribly beaten and cut, and but for the interference of Mr. Dewey, at the foot of Walnut street, who got them into his storehouse and locked them up, would doubtless have been killed.

A messenger was sent to the sheriff for aid. The deputation of that officer, under charge of officer Saunders, to the number of about sixty persons, showed themselves upon the ground, each distinguished by a green ribbon tied to the breast of his coat. They passed along Walnut street to the wharf, down the wharf to Pine, the belligerent party all the while increasing in numbers. At Pine, they turned

from the wharf, and by the time they had passed half of the second square towards the heart of the city, the crowd pressed on so close, that it was necessary to quicken their pace, which was soon heightened to a full run, the mob in hot pursuit, loud in threats and imprecations. The posse of the sheriff ran across the commons to Spruce street, but being headed off at Schuylkill, Third and Spruce, ran down Third to Pine, along which they made the best of their way to the city. The crowd pursued them to Sixth and Pine, where a black man was seen, to attack whom called them off from the pursuit of the sheriff's posse.

The mob, after an unsuccessful attempt to get their victors, returned to the south western section of the city, attacking every black man that came in their way, and committing many other outrages. About noon they raced a poor negro at the corner of Thirteen and Shippen streets—caught him, and beat and frightened him almost to death. The police officers suffered in many cases very severely.

To add to the difficulty the authority of the mayor is limited to the city bounds. But it being ascertained that the county commissioners had refused to pay their sheriff's posse, his honor immediately called out the first brigade of city volunteers, pledging himself personally to the amount of \$1,000 to pay expenses. The military were under arms by three o'clock. At one o'clock the councils convened and placed \$500 at the mayor's disposal. The decision, energy, and humanity with which this officer seems to have acquitted himself, entitles him to the thanks of the community. He was however knocked down during the evening by some of the rioters, whom he was endeavoring to disperse. A great number, whites and blacks, of those arrested, were examined and committed by the police during the day.

About a thousand bayonets, under command of determined officers, remained upon post during the night, and kept the mob down.

Towards evening and after night on Monday the colored population fled in the utmost terror in every possible direction—some escaping into Jersey, some over the Market and Callowhill street bridges into the country, and others making their way with all the haste in their power to the upper liberties and districts of Philadelphia. Numbers sought refuge in the watch houses—in the S. E. watch house alone seventy females were confined all night. Many hid themselves in alleys or contrived to get into yards and concealed themselves in sheds and other out-houses. The negro residents up town barricaded their doors inside. Large bodies of men, women and children of color, were collected on the meadows below the point house.

KENTUCKY.

A MILITARY ENCAMPMENT formed with the double object of improving discipline and celebrating the anniversary of independence, was formed, near Lexington on the fourth inst. The Artillery, Light Infantry, Greys, and Grenadiers, from Lexington, and the Louisville Guards, the Versailles Artillery, the Stampy Ground Artillery, and the Georgetown Artillery reported themselves in soldier like order and answered to roll call. There was an immense assemblage of ladies and gentlemen on the camp ground on Sunday the 3d, when divine service was performed in the forenoon by the rev. J. D. Matthews, of the Presbyterian church, Lexington, and in the afternoon by the rev. E. Stevenson. A still larger concourse attended the grand parade on the anniversary, when the troops were reviewed by the governor, and an appropriate oration was delivered by Charles S. Morehead, esq.

ILLINOIS.

THE MORMON EXCITEMENT appears to increase. The developments which may be gathered from the publications of the state, are truly startling. It appears that the prophet of the sect, Joseph Smith, and his associates, have about six thousand votes under their immediate control, sufficient to give them the balance of power between parties in the state. It is alleged that they have found out how to make a profitable market of this power. At the presidential election they generally voted for General Harrison, but at the last election they supported the Van Buren candidates. They are now accused of having contracted to support the same party at the election which occurred this week, in consideration of which the city of Nauvoo had a charter granted to it with very extraordinary powers. The predominance of the sect is secured to great extent indeed, if the version of the charter given by the Sangamo Journal be correct. It states that they are authorised to punish any violation of their city ordinances by imprisonment for life, and one of their ordinances prohibits any one from speaking disrespectfully of Smith, under severe penalties."

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